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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ALBANIA

Reportage on Visit of Italian Interior Minister 1
Alia Receives Scotti *[ATA]* 1
Bufi Meets Minister *[ATA]* 1
Yzeiri Meets Scotti *[ATA]* 1
Agreement Signed *[ATA]* 2
Yzeiri, Scotti News Conference *[ATA]* 2
Opposition Parties Hold Rally in Tirana *[ATA]* 2
Democratic Party To Hold National Assembly 27 Sep *[ATA]* 3

BULGARIA

Zhelev Congratulates Gorbachev on CPSU Resignation *[Sofia Radio]* 4
Reaction to Soviet Coup, Government Stance 4
Press on BSP Position *[BTA]* 4
Zhelev Congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin *[BTA]* 4
MP on Soviet Envoy Talks *[Sofia Radio]* 4
BZNS-United on Sharapov *[Sofia Radio]* 5
Conflicting Reports on Soviet Envoy *[BTA]* 5
Sofia Residents Oppose Coup *[BTA]* 6
Tomov Denies Contacts With Plotters *[BTA]* 6
SDS Letter to Gorbachev, Yeltsin *[Sofia Radio]* 6
SDS Request Information from KGB on BSP Coup Involvement *[BTA]* 7
BTA Reviews 24 Aug Political Developments 7
FAKS Daily Claims 'Enormous Funds Concealed' Abroad *[BTA]* 8
Trenchev Wants List of Ex-Security Men in Podkrepa *[Sofia Radio]* 8
Mutafchiev Pledges Army's Loyalty on Army Day *[BTA]* 8

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Government Prepared To Recognize Baltics *[CTK]* 10
Deputies Adopt Resolution on Baltics Recognition *[CTK]* 10
Carnogursky Sees No Threat From USSR *[Bratislava Radio]* 10
Meciar Expands on Grand Coalition Proposal *[VEREJNOST 22 Aug]* 12
'Grand Coalition' Analyzed *[Cibula in NARODNA OBRODA 16 Aug]* 12
ODS: No 'Third Way'; Dubcek Should Resign *[CTK]* 13
Slovak Democrats Oppose Referendum Proposal *[Bratislava PRAVDA 16 Aug]* 13
Sladek Verbally Attacks President Havel *[OBCANSKY DENIK 19 Aug]* 14
Charged With Defamation *[CTK]* 14
Czech Economic Decline Reported in July *[HOSPODARSKE NOVINY 19 Aug]* 14
Update on Progress of Czech Privatization Process *[CTK]* 15
Differences Over Pipeline Privatization Viewed *[SVOBODNE SLOVO 17 Aug]* 16

HUNGARY

Press Briefing on SFRY Aircraft Violations *[MTI]* 17
Violations Fail To Prompt Forces' Mobilization *[Budapest Radio]* 17
Border Guard Official Discusses Orders To Fire *[Budapest Radio]* 17
Border Guard Reinforced, Refugees Continue Coming *[Budapest Radio]* 18
County 'Unable To Cope' With Refugee 'Flood' *[Budapest Radio]* 18
Border Official Reports on Croatian Refugees *[MTI]* 18

Horvath Concerned About Tensions on Border *[Vienna DER STANDARD 26 Aug]* 18
Goncz Assesses USSR, Yugoslav Events *[Budapest Radio]* 19
Antall Summons Ambassadors on USSR, SFRY *[Budapest TV]* 21
Socialist Chairman Thurmer Views Moscow Coup *[NEPSZABADSAG 21 Aug]* 21
Thurmer on Gorbachev *[NEPSZAVA 22 Aug]* 21
Daily on Socialists' Views *[NEPSZABADSAG 21 Aug]* 22
Foreign Ministry Reports Recognition of Baltics *[MTI]* 22

POLAND

Walesa News Conference on Soviet Situation *[Warsaw TV]* 23
Bielecki Assesses Implications of Soviet Crisis *[Paris LE FIGARO 22 Aug]* 23
Soviet Embassy Expresses Thanks for Support *[PAP]* 24
Walesa Sends Letter to EC Ambassadors *[Warsaw Radio]* 24
Warsaw 'Ready' For Relations With Baltics *[PAP]* 25
Decisions of 24 Sep Sejm Meeting Reported *[PAP]* 25
Sejm Accepts 1990 Mazowiecki Government Budget *[PAP]* 25
Bielecki Recalls Deputy Finance Minister Sawicki *[PAP]* 25
Labor Minister Interviewed on Social Despondency *[TYGODNIK GDANSKI 18 Aug]* 25
Social Security Agency Head Resigns *[Warsaw TV]* 26

ROMANIA

Government Statement Welcomes Baltic Independence *[Bucharest Radio]* 27
Civic Parties' Conference Issues Declaration *[ROMPRES]* 27
Roman on 'Highly Important' Government Decisions *[ROMPRES]* 28
Coposu Answers Constanta Residents' Questions *[DREPTATEA 16 Aug]* 28
Traditional, National Democratic Parties Merge *[ROMPRES]* 29

YUGOSLAVIA

Federal

Markovic Cables Support to Gorbachev *[TANJUG]* 30
Mesic Message Greets Gorbachev on Return *[TANJUG]* 30
Presidency Session Statement on Proceedings *[TANJUG]* 30
Mesic on Resignation Conditions, Moves on Slovenia *[Budapest Radio]* 31
Markovic Interviewed on Situation *[TANJUG]* 31
Foreign Currency Growth Measures Reported *[TANJUG]* 32
Cease-Fire Control Commission Member Resigns *[TANJUG]* 33

Croatia

Tudjman Asks Kohl, Genscher for Protection *[TANJUG]* 33
Tudjman Meets With Croatian Military Leaders *[Zagreb Radio]* 33
Refugee Figures 'Almost Doubled' Since 7 Aug *[TANJUG]* 33
Daily Claims 800 Machine Guns Unloaded at Rijeka *[TANJUG]* 34
Defense Minister Threatens 'General Mobilization' *[TANJUG]* 34
Federal Defense Secretariat Reply to Tudjman Letter *[TANJUG]* 35
'Decisive Showdown' Expected in Vinkovci *[Zagreb Radio]* 35
'General Alarm' Sirens Sounded in Vukovar *[TANJUG]* 35
Guardsman Killed in Attack on Vrlika *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Air Force Planes Shot at During Exercise *[TANJUG]* 36
Guard Forces Reportedly Shoot Down Two Planes *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Air Force Confirms Downing *[TANJUG]* 36

Serbia

Official Accuses Mesic of 'Selling Serbia' *[TANJUG]* 36
Slavonian Decree Prepares Mobilization *[TANJUG]* 37
Kosutic Discusses Serbo-Croatian Territory Issue *[TANJUG]* 37
Belgrade Radio, Television Officials Resign *[TANJUG]* 37

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Officials Threaten To Call State of Emergency *[TANJUG]* 37

Macedonia

Ministry's Conscription Actions Explained *[TANJUG]* 38

Reportage on Visit of Italian Interior Minister

Alia Receives Scotti

AU2408202491 Tirana ATA in English 1816 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Tirana, August 24 (ATA) - On August 24, afternoon, the president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, received at the Palace of Brigades Italy's minister of the interior, Vincenzo Scotti.

President Ramiz Alia assessed this visit as a step forward in the promotion of the Albanian-Italian relations. This, he said, and the former visits of the state high ranking personalities of Italy reflect the friendship between our peoples, which is based on the observation of freedom and sovereignty, of the two countries. He assessed the aid Italy is granting Albanian which, he said, creates the possibility to cope with the numerous and difficult problems we are facing. He underscored that it is important to help Albania so that the people look forward to the future for better working and living conditions in their country. After speaking of the concern of the Albanian state in the struggle against crime, terrorism, drug addiction and all phenomena harmful to the society, he appreciated the importance of cooperation and specialised aid offered by Italy in these fields.

The Interior Minister Scotti said, among other things, that they in Italy are aware of the importance cooperation with Albania has in various fields. In this new epoch, he said it is necessary for our countries to march together on the European road. He assessed the agreement signed between the Ministry of Public Order of Albania and the Ministry of the Interior of Italy and underscored the readiness of the Italian party for technical aid, experience etc., in the consolidation of public order and the intensification of the struggle against crime, terrorism, smuggling, etc. He appreciated the willingness of the Albanian party to combat these phenomena and voiced the confidence that cooperation in this field will be efficient. [passage omitted]

Bufi Meets Minister

AU2408193091 Tirana ATA in English 1815 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 24 (ATA) - The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, Ylli Bufi, received Italian Minister of the Interior Vincenzo Scotti and the persons accompanying him at the prime minister's seat on August 24.

The Albanian premier thanked the Italian minister for the contribution and aid granted by the Italian Government in these difficult moments our country is undergoing and particularly his personal contribution to solve the problems that emerged lately as a result of the exodus.

Minister Vincenzo Scotti conveyed to Premier Ylli Bufi the warm greetings of President Cossiga and Premier Andreotti and the other members of the Italian Government and voiced the committment of the Italian state to intensify the emergency aids and to resume the economic activity in our country and in those sectors where it has been suspended due to the lack of raw materials. With regard to this, he said that Italy has asked the other European countries to help Albania and that any delay in this respect does not serve the democratic developments. The Italian minister assessed the stand and endeavours of the Albanian Government to carry out correctly the return of the Albanian citizens who left lately on ship board for Italy. He aired the concern for joint investments and wished our country overcomes as soon as possible the primary difficulties on the road of political and economic transformations it has undertaken.

Premier Ylli Bufi assessed the agreement signed on august 24 in Tirana between the Ministry of Public Order of Albania and the Interior Ministry of Italy. Further on the premier underscored that we appreciate Italy's economic and financial aids, but we would like that such a thing is done by the whole European Community and the USA. The events in the Soviet Union, he pointed out, set forth the request that the West assists even more the countries of the East. Delays in this respect influence on the prolongation of the transition period these countries are undergoing. In order to overcome the crisis of confidence in our country, the premier underscored it is indispensible to carry out investments as soon as possible to set up construction sites, to arouse confidence, especially of the youth, so that it works at home. He asked the Italian minister to convey to the Italian Government and Premier Andreotti our country's preoccupation to start the work in the highways, railways, ports etc., on which contacts have been held between representatives of trade firms and chambers of our two countries.

Attending the reception were the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Economy Gramoz Pashko, the Minister of Public Order Bajram Yzeiri and others.

Present was also the Italian ambassador in Tirana, Torquato Cardilli.

Yzeiri Meets Scotti

AU2508174491 Tirana ATA in English 0803 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 24 (ATA)—On August 24, before noon, talks were conducted at the Ministry of Public Order between the minister of public order of Albania, Bajram Yzeiri, and the minister of the interior of Italy, Vincenzo Scotti, as well as between the members of the two delegations they head.

After bidding welcome, the Albanian minister, Bajram Yzeiri, dwelt particularly on the work carried out by the forces of order to stabilize the situation, to restore law and order in the country. "It is a special honor and pleasure for

me, he said, to receive and have talks on important problems regarding the intensification of cooperation between our two countries." Then Bajram Yzeiri put forth the needs and requests of the Ministry of Public Order for reforming, in the framework of the establishment of democracy in Albania. Speaking of the exoduses, he stressed that we appreciate your spirit of humanism in treating the Albanian citizens in Italy, the concern of the president, the prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs, and Mrs. Boniver regarding their systemization etc. On his part, the Italian Minister Vincenzo Scotti, said that we are here to discuss and sign the agreement between the Ministry of Public Order of Albania and the Ministry of the Interior of Italy. This agreement, he underscored, is indispensable because it defines concrete aids in various fields. The Italian minister aired his commitment to assist and cooperate with Albania, to resume the concrete economic, technical activity.

In course of the talks they voiced the will and desire of the two parties to strengthen the assistance and cooperation of the two organs in various fields of the struggle against organized crime, drug-addiction, narcotic substances etc., as well as in the exchange of experience, technical aid, specialization and qualification of cadres, etc.

Agreement Signed

AU2508174691 Tirana ATA in English 0809 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 24 (ATA)—The agreement between the Ministry of Public Order of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic was signed in Tirana on August 24, before noon.

For the Albanian party, the agreement was signed by the minister of public order, Bajram Yzeiri, and for the Italian party by the interior minister, Vincenzo Scotti.

The agreement foresees cooperation of the two ministries in the struggle against organized crime, drug addiction, narcotic substances and on the struggle against terrorism, as well as exchange of experience and technical aid etc. The Italian party will assist the forces of order of Albania with technical equipments, qualification and specialization of the cadres etc., to the tune of about 40 billion liras, which will be accorded in schedules to be defined.

Yzeiri, Scotti News Conference

AU2508184891 Tirana ATA in English 1731 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 25 (ATA)—A press conference with the interior minister of Italy, Vincenzo Scotti, and the minister of public order of Albania, Bajram Yzeiri, was held in one of the halls of the Palace of Congresses in Tirana on August 24 afternoon.

The interior minister of Italy, Vincenzo Scotti, said among other things that the agreement signed with the interior minister of Albania on the public order security sector, the fight against criminality, drug addiction, smuggling etc. envisages also a close exchange of information and experience, supply with technical equipments, specialization and qualification of the cadres, etc.

Regarding the question about the Albanian refugees in Italy, he said that a part of them who have come in March have found work and are systematized, but we cannot admit other refugees because this emigration is illegal. We have committed ourselves to help the Albanians in their country, to rapidly crown democracy in this neighbouring country.

In his speech, the minister of the public order of Albania, Bajram Yzeiri, thanked Mr. Scotti for this visit and for the aids the Italian Government has accorded to our country and pointed to the importance of the agreement signed between the ministries of both countries to prevent organised criminality.

Likewise Mr. Scotti responded to the questions by the reporters regarding the ways of realizing the agreement, the aid worth 40 billion lire for the public order sector, the actions to fight smuggling, etc.

Opposition Parties Hold Rally in Tirana

AU2508174891 Tirana ATA in English 0824 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 24 (ATA)—On August 23, afternoon, the Democratic Party [DP] branch for Tirana organized a rally in "Dinamo" Stadium, which was attended by members and sympathizers of this party, inhabitants of Tirana city, as well as invitees from the Republican, Social Democratic parties, the Human Rights Defense Forum, etc.

The rally was opened by the chairman of the DP branch for Tirana, Prof. Dr. Ylli Vejsiu.

Then the floor was taken by the chairman of the Steering Committee of the DP, Dr. Sali Berisha, who pointed to the contribution of Tirana's citizens, especially of the students to introduce democracy in Albania and to destroy the one-party state, which caused so much pains and sufferings to the people. Speaking of the objectives the oposition parties in Albania have set to themselves, Sali Berisha underlined that care should be taken to prevent a possible establishment of a right-wing dictatorship, to safeguard democracy from forces and groups allied to the cryptocommunists. Likewise he demanded the reformation of the state mass media, RTV [Radio and Television], local radios, ATA, in conformity with the new pluralistic structure of the Albanian state. He

demanded the discharge of the leading cadres of RTV, as well as the indispensability of transparence in our press and reports.

Dr. Sali Berisha dwelt also on the latest events in the Soviet Union, stressing that the coup d'etat and the attempts to overthrow President Gorbachev were a testimony to the existence and efforts of the totalitarian Stalinist forces to halt and sabotage the democratic processes. This regressive process, he said, might be of negative consequences also in the other East European countries, including Albania. He spoke also of the political action of the DP, measures to guarantee the juridical state and demanded from the Albanian and Greek Governments that those criminals of April 2 events in Shkoder be handed back and tried before the people.

The secretary of the Steering Commission of the DP, Eduard Selami; the chairman of the SDP [Social Democratic Party], Dr. Skender Gjinushi; the chairman of the RP [Republican Party] branch for Tirana, Maksim Havjari; and the member of the Steering Commission of the DP, Azem Hajdari took the floor as well.

Democratic Party To Hold National Assembly 27 Sep

AU2508185291 Tirana ATA in English 1737 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Tirana, August 25 (ATA)—The newspaper "RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE" reports that the national conference of the Democratic Party, which decided to initiate the election campaign in this party, convened in Tirana these days. It adopted also the dates of the convocation of the conference of the Democratic Party branches in the districts.

The national conference decided to hold the National Assembly of the Albanian Democratic Party on September 27.

Zhelev Congratulates Gorbachev on CPSU Resignation

AU2508132891 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] President of the Republic Zhelyu Zhelev has sent a telegram to USSR President Gorbachev. Since the telegram is brief, I will read its contents in full:

Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich:

I congratulate you on your decision to resign from your post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and to dissolve the CPSU Central Committee as an accomplice [suuchastnik] in the coup of 19 August 1991.

I believe that this is necessary and is a very important step on the road to democracy in your country.

With respect,

Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Reaction to Soviet Coup, Government Stance

Press on BSP Position

AU2308133891 Sofia BTA in English 1303 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—A plenum of the Supreme Council of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], which continued until 3 AM this morning, approved the wait-and-see tactics of the leader of the Socialists, Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, in connection with the events in the USSR, "TRUD" writes today. The plenum adopted neither a document nor a declaration or a statement on this issue.

The reportage in "DUMA" makes it clear that according to the leaders of the Socialists, while the BSP remains the most influential political force in society and holds the majority in parliament, a return to totalitarianism is impossible and the processes of innovation, democratization and a social market economy in Bulgaria are irreversible. Another scenario is not out of question, but according to Mr. Lilov the threat of establishing a dictatorship stems from the extreme right political forces. In the course of the discussions the Socialists described the coup in the USSR as neo-Stalinist, imperial and anti-Soviet.

The marked reservedness and the delay of the reaction of the BSP was explained with the fact that the Soviet Union is one of the superpowers and the changes in it affect the whole world. All political forces accused the Socialists of not daring to take a stand on the events.

According to sources in the Supreme Council, the wait-and-see stand of Mr. Aleksandur Lilov revealed the internal contradictions which the party of the Socialists is carefully covering up. The more radically-minded circles in the BSP levelled sharp criticism at Mr. Lilov. Of all this "DUMA" only mentions that some of the factions of the BSP criticised the slow reaction of the Presidium. "TRUD" ironically comments today that "the only dissent between the radical and the moderate wing of the party arouse in connection with the disappearance of Gorbachev's portrait from the corner of reformers."

The reportage in "DUMA," also cites former Socialist prime minister Andrey Lukanov as saying that "socialism is impossible without democracy and is alien to violence in the name of naked power," that "the BSP has proven this in deed, which today is its moral capital."

Zhelev Congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin

AU2308182291 Sofia BTA in English 1718 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—President of Bulgaria Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev has cabled sincere congratulations to President of the USSR Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of his safe return to Moscow which marked the restoration of constitutional order in the country. "I hope that these days that shook the world usher in a fundamentally new stage in the development of your country," the Bulgarian head of state emphasizes.

"What happened is really a lesson to all political forces not only in the Soviet Union," the cable reads.

In conclusion the Bulgarian leader expresses the conviction that the political and economic relations between Bulgaria and the USSR are at a fundamentally new stage. "Our common road is the road of democracy and freedom," Dr. Zhelev emphasizes.

President Zhelyu Zhelev has also cabled congratulations on the restoration of constitutional order in the USSR to Mr. Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia.

"In the context of the democratic and irreversible changes in eastern Europe, your victory over the reactionary forces categorically showed the impossibility of a return to totalitarianism and dictatorship," the Bulgarian leader writes.

"The Russian people proved that they have made their choice. Your decisive action along with the actions of the democratic forces of Russia saved the Soviet Union, they saved democracy and the world," the president emphasizes.

"I take the opportunity to renew to you my invitation to visit Bulgaria at your earliest convenience," Dr. Zhelev writes in conclusion.

MP on Soviet Envoy Talks

AU2308185291 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Viktoriya Dimova, National Assembly deputy for the 189th Single-Mandate Constituency of Iskur in Sofia and a representative of the Bulgarian National Agrarian

Union-United, has sent the following open letter to President Zhelyu Zhelev, BTA, and the mass media:

Esteemed Mr. President:

I am amazed by the reports in the mass media of talks held behind the scenes regarding ensuring the legitimacy of the Moscow military-communist junta by certain members of the Bulgarian Government with Viktor Sharapov, ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Bulgaria, at a time when the whereabouts of the democratically elected Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, were unknown, and when Russian President Boris Yeltsin was on the barricades defending democracy.

In connection with this, I ask you, as president of the Republic of Bulgaria, to do what is necessary to make those members of the government who took part in these contacts behind the scenes to render personal account for their actions, and also to take the appropriate actions for the removal of Mr. Sharapov from the post of ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Bulgaria. His well-known election campaign partiality and his canvasing activity for the cause of one political party (?exert) influence that is not permissible for the norms of diplomatic behavior.

BZNS-United on Sharapov

AU2308193491 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] The parliamentary group of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union-United has addressed an inquiry on an acute topical issue to Prime Minister Dimitur Popov, details of which have been issued to BTA and the mass media.

Esteemed Mr. Popov, the inquiry states, on 23 August we were amazed to learn from the mass media that as early as on 19 August representatives of the Bulgarian Government held conversations behind the scenes with Viktor Sharapov, the Soviet ambassador in Sofia, in his capacity as a representative of the participants in the Moscow coup.

We strongly ask that you provide an explanation on this matter on 2 September, the first day following the vacation of the National Assembly.

The inquiry is signed by National Assembly Deputy Metodi Nedyalkov on behalf of the parliamentary group of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union-United.

Conflicting Reports on Soviet Envoy

AU2308193591 Sofia BTA in English 1842 GMT 23 Aug 91

["Specifications on Soviet Ambassador's Visits"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—Mr. Igor Kareyev, the USSR minister plenipotentiary to Bulgaria, denied press reports that on Monday, August 19, the Soviet ambassador here, Mr. Viktor Sharapov, had visited the Council of Ministers and paid a call on the president, asking and even exerting pressure for the urgent departure of a Bulgarian economic delegation for Moscow for trade and economic talks.

Talking to a BTA reporter today, the Soviet diplomat specified the embassy position in connection with the press reports of meetings held by Ambassador Viktor Sharapov earlier this week. Mr. Igor Kareyev indicated that the reports evidently created a scandal.

He went on to say: "It is routine diplomatic practice for the ambassador to call on the president and to visit the Council of Ministers. The fact that this happened on August 19 should not arouse suspicions in anyone. As to the visit by Vice Premier Aleksandur Tomov to the USSR, the matter did not emerge yesterday or on August 19 when the well-known events happened in Moscow. The meeting with Soviet Vice Premier Ryabev was envisaged in the agreements between the heads of government reached during the visit to Moscow by Bulgarian Prime Minister Dimitur Popov on May 17.

Mr. Igor Kareyev supplied details on the preparations he made for this meeting.

The Soviet diplomat confirmed that the composition of the delegation was the only thing discussed in the talks on August 19. "I conferred with Dimitur Popov and we talked on the phone with Aleksandur Tomov," Mr. Kareyev specified when asked who attended the talks.

"In the two days of the coup the Soviet ambassador here held more meetings than in two months before that," Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev said, speaking in the Bulgarian TV main evening newscast. He declined to identify the cabinet members with whom the Soviet ambassador had conferred but said he knew who they were. Mr. Ludzhev went on to say that the government had differences on the matter as not all cabinet members were told in time about those meetings.

"Ambassador Sharapov came to see Prime Minister Popov, probably two times," said Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandur Tomov. He confirmed on TV that on August 19 he talked over the phone with Soviet diplomat Kareyev. The minister plenipotentiary had inquired whether the Bulgarian vice premier intended to go ahead with his visit to Moscow. Asked whether the Bulgarian Government was pressured, Mr. Tomov told his interviewer: "You should ask Premier Dimitur Popov about that."

National television reported that the parliamentary faction of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (United) (BZNS-U) has addressed a question to Prime Minister Popov, insisting that he confirm or deny the truth of a media report that government officials allegedly had "backstage meetings" with Soviet Ambassador Sharapov in his capacity as representative of the Moscow coupsters. The

MP's insist that the prime minister answer the question at the very first parliamentary sitting after the recess.

For her part, Mrs. Viktoriya Dimova MP of the BZNS-U sent President Zhelev an open letter asking him to take the necessary action for the recall of Ambassador Viktor Sharapov from Bulgaria.

Mr. Vladimir Filipov, foreign policy adviser of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), said that Soviet Embassy diplomats visited the SDS on August 21. They voiced concern over the activation of Stalinists at the Soviet Embassy.

Sofia Residents Oppose Coup

AU2508165891 Sofia BTA in English 1538 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 25 (BTA)—88 Per cent of the Sofianites interviewed in a Center for the Study of Democracy poll disapproved of the coup plotters in Moscow, Bulgarian Television reported. The poll showed that 34 per cent of the respondents expressed misgivings about Bulgaria's independence in case the coup succeeded.

12 per cent of those polled approved of Mr. Gorbachev's ouster. Most of those people were poorly educated.

Tomov Denies Contacts With Plotters

AU2508183891 Sofia BTA in English 1750 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 25 (BTA)—Events in the Soviet Union are still the most commented subject today. Speaking in "Sunday 150," the morning political news and views magazine of Radio Sofia's Khorizont Programme, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandur Tomov, who is also deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party's Supreme Council, categorically dismissed the accusations that the government maintained contacts with the coup plotters in Moscow. In corroboration he said that the decision to postpone the departure of the Bulgarian economic delegation early last week (as agreed in advance) was unanimously supported by the entire government, by Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and President Zhelyu Zhelev. "The coup in Moscow was an unconstitutional act and we could not talk to leaders who have not been constitutionally elected," Mr. Tomov said.

He said that the events in Moscow unfolded faster than the reaction of his party (the BSP) [Bulgarian Socialist Party]. "I think what was said on Monday evening was insufficient," Mr. Tomov said, referring to the BSP declaration. "I think that a party could have afforded a more candid statement of things, the way they sounded when discussed by its leadership and in the interviews of some of its leaders, in the declarations of all radical movements," Mr. Aleksandur Tomov observed.

In a cable of congratulations to Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev today, President Zhelyu Zhelev assesses his resignation as general secretary of the CC [Central Committee] of the CPSU and the disbandment of the Central Committee as major steps along the road of democracy.

The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Revolutionary) today released a declaration condemning the "counterrevolutionary revolt of Yeltsin/Gorbachev" and voicing concern over "the fate of the Soviet state and the socialist system." The declaration expresses confidence in "the new generation of Bulgarian Communists" and in the "invincibility of the Leninist ideas of the Bolshevik wing in the CPSU."

Yet another question of last week was raised in "Sunday 150": the letter from Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Mesut Yilmaz to Bulgarian Prime Minister Mr. Dimitur Popov, which requires his intervention for the pre-election registration of Mr. Ahmed Dogan's Party for Rights and Freedoms. Despite the fuss over the leak of information on the content of the letter, the moderator of the programme supplied further facts on the matter. He said he had information that unnamed Turkish diplomats were immediate political leaders of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, that the movement's leaders deliver confidential information, including reports on parliament's proceedings, to the Turkish Embassy in Sofia, that the parliamentary group of the movement clears its moves with the Turkish Embassy. The journalist recalled the public statement of the Turkish president who pointed to the state organization of Yugoslavia as a model to Bulgaria and Greece in the settlement of the ethnic issues and the problems of Muslims in these two countries.

The president's foreign policy adviser, to whom the questions were addressed, said these were "disturbing things." He insisted that no new barriers be raised to the improved relations between Bulgaria and Turkey. The registration of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms is not in the competence of the executive branch. It is within the competence of the judiciary and no one can influence it, the presidential adviser said.

It transpired in the programme that Prime Minister Dimitur Popov will give a formal answer.

On the initiative of the Ruse-based Kingdom of Bulgaria Union, a memorial service was conducted at Ruse's Trinity Cathedral today in connection with the 48th anniversary of the death of Tsar Boris III.

SDS Letter to Gorbachev, Yeltsin

AU2608134991 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Mikhail Nedyalchev, spokesman for the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] National Coordinating Council, is in our studio. He will read an open letter to the USSR leaders.

[Nedyalchev] Open letter from the SDS National Coordinating Council to Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, legally elected president of the USSR, and Mr. Boris Yeltsin, legally elected president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR].

Gentlemen; a few days ago something happened in the USSR that affected not only the USSR and its legal government. It also affected restructuring and the fate of the tender revolutions in Eastern Europe, the political status quo in the world, and history itself.

We witnessed not only the failure of the attempt to implement a totalitarian coup, but also a precedent in human history. For the first time in world history events of world importance were not decided by force but by a moral stand. Force disintegrated because of its amoral character. For the first time in world history the universal moral consensus of mankind triumphed over all strategic considerations, diplomatic ploys, and secret accords. The moral consensus prevailed over political cynicism.

Everyone supported justice and the law. Everyone was against the tanks. Political figures such as Saddam Husayn and Al-Qadhdhafi, who recognized the coup, and the Bulgarian Socialist Party, which because of profound considerations of statesmanship did not assume any position at all, inscribed themselves with their own hands in the register of a different historical time—they jumped from the ship called the new time.

In the personality of His Excellency Boris Yeltsin, RSFSR president, we greet a worthy man who led his people in the struggle against communist tyranny and demonstrated to the world that the Russians are not mute subjects of the Stalinist empire.

The Bulgarian opposition can proudly and happily say that despite the fact that its positions were different from those of the Communist Gorbachev, it had the same moral positions that this man, who deserves the gratitude of the world, assumed. The Bulgarian opposition was a partner in that great moral alliance that united people and continents around simple and universal values—honesty, legality, and solidarity.

We greet you on the death of political cynicism—the first death in mankind's history that calls for a celebration rather than mourning.

26 August 1991, Sofia. The SDS National Coordinating Council.

SDS Request Information from KGB on BSP Coup Involvement

AU2608143091 Sofia BTA in English 1359 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 26 (BTA)—Mr. Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), the radical opposition, has addressed a letter to the new chief of the Soviet KGB, Gen. Vadim Bakatin. He asks for cooperation to reveal the possible secret collaboration between the coup-makers in Moscow and the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. "Your assistance would not only be favourable to the democratic processes in Bulgaria but would doubtlessly contribute to the consolidation of the mutual confidence between our states," says the letter.

The letter points out that the days just before the coup the BSP had acted markedly aggressively. The SDS disposes of some information that separate top leaders of the BSP had secretly kept in touch with the coup-makers.

Mr. Dimitrov also writes that in the three days of the coup the BSP's leadership remained "as silent as the grave" under the pretext of the lack of information. "It was obvious from their behaviour that they were waiting for instructions," writes Mr. Dimitrov. Mr. Dimitrov usually refers to the Socialist party as "Communist."

This letter of the leader of the radical opposition in Bulgaria was presented to the press this afternoon. At the regular briefing of the SDS, Mr. Filip Dimitrov said that the opposition coalition will ask the KGB for information about its agents and activities in Bulgaria. This had been discussed at the meeting of the National Coordinating Council. For the first time the SDS asked for such information in October 1990, after its national conference. At that time the SDS had not yet split into a radical and a moderate wing. The KGB's agents and activities in Bulgaria have not yet been made public.

BTA Reviews 24 Aug Political Developments

AU2408194691 Sofia BTA in English 1816 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 24 (BTA)—SDS [Union of Democratic Forces]-Liberals (the moderate wing in the Union of Democratic Forces) has already submitted to the Central Electoral Commission its documents for participation in the October 13 elections. The coalition is led by the chairman of the Green Party Mr. Aleksandur Karakachanov and by the president of one of the Federations of Democracy Clubs Mr. Petko Simeonov.

SDS-Liberals applied for registration of a blue ballot paper. The same desire will be probably professed by the SDS Coordinating Council (the radical opposition). The SDS-Liberals said they expected to win 15 percent of the vote.

The splitting Green Party held conferences in Sofia and Plovdiv. Part of the party belongs to one of the influential organizations in the SDS-Liberals, and the other part supports the radical opposition wing.

The SDS-Liberals registration application ruled out the conjectures that the SDS could still go to the elections in one piece. The different opposition wings are still expected to reach agreement valid in the post-election period as well. Leaders of various groups make statements to this effect.

In a radio programme on the impact of the events in the USSR on political forces in Bulgaria, the political scientist Mr. Tsvetozar Tomov argues that the reactions to the failed coup showed that the differences between the tendencies in the SDS are narrower than between the hard-liner and reformer wings in the Bulgarian Socialist (ex-Communist) Party [BSP]. Mr. Tomov believes that the reactions of the political parties and coalitions will affect their standing with the voters.

In the same connection Mr. Solomon Pasi MP of the Green Party raises the question as follows: Will the BSP replace its leadership (which failed to condemn categorically the coup) or will it rather lose the elections? Observers believe that the BSP is in a quandary because if it replaces its leadership it risks losing the pro-communist votes.

Mr. Vladimir Spasov, who signed the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] declaration welcoming the ouster of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, claimed today that he had been misquoted. The BCP suggests the formation of a "Left Popular Front."

A memorial service for those who laid their lives in defence of democracy in Moscow was conducted at the Russian Church in Sofia today on the initiative of the Bulgarian Gorbachev and Yeltsin Support Committee.

FAKS Daily Claims 'Enormous Funds Concealed' Abroad

AU2308171691 Sofia BTA in English 1621 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—Enormous funds are being concealed in special bank accounts abroad, "FAKS" writes today. The daily cites a high-ranking Bulgarian civil servant in conditions of anonymity. According to him these funds are operated by acting and retired officers of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the intelligence services and the Diplomatic Corps Service Office.

He explained that in the totalitarian past these funds were used for repressions against inconvenient persons in the country and for other "special" purposes.

The funds were used in establishing private and joint-stock companies, in making foreign currency profits. The article also maintains that some of the bosses are also involved in trade in drugs and arms.

The daily reports that the government has started an audit in the auxiliary services of the Ministry of Defence and the Interior Ministry, as well as in the Diplomatic Corps Service Office. "FAKS" believes that at least some of the "dirty linen" will be shown in public. The source however is more sceptical and does not think that the auditors will have the courage and the competence to expose the "octopus."

According to him its bosses have no fears because they are well connected in the justice administrating circles.

Trenchev Wants List of Ex-Security Men in Podkrepa

AU2308140491 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] The Executive Council of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation demands details of the contents of the list of officers of the former State Security who have infiltrated the Podkrepa Confederation. According to BTA, Prime Minister Dimitur Popov has such a list at his disposal, which was handed to him by Interior Minister Khristo Danov.

In the spirit of the good mutual relations between the government and the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, we would like to learn the contents of this list and for the files of the persons mentioned in the list to be published, states the letter of the Executive Council of Podkrepa addressed to the prime minister, signed by Konstantin Trenchev.

Otherwise, we will consider that Mr. Danov made an attempt to put Podkrepa in a bad light, and to provoke an increase of tension at the present juncture, when Podkrepa and the government are attempting to preserve social peace, states the document delivered to the BTA.

Mutafchiev Pledges Army's Loyalty on Army Day

AU2308144491 Sofia BTA in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—"Today the Bulgarian Army is a state, non-partisan structure subject to National Assembly, the government and the head of state of the Republic of Bulgaria. It is an Army of the people which strictly abides by the Constitution and the national interests," Gen. Yordan Mutafchiev, minister of defence, says in a congratulatory letter on the occasion of the Day of the Bulgarian Army.

On October 24, 1990, the Grand National Assembly adopted a Political Parties Act at the initiative of Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, Bulgaria's first non-communist president. The act provided for the depoliticization of the Bulgarian Army. Later on, 78 generals and 1,700 lower-ranking officers were pensioned off.

A few days ago Gen. Mutafchiev was promoted to the rank of Army General by a presidential decree.

Under an ordinance of the Council of Ministers the Bulgarian Army marks its day on August 23 instead of September 23 as was the case so far.

August 23, 1877 was the climax of the Shipka battle which decided the end of the Russian-Turkish war and led to the liberation of Bulgaria from Turkish yoke. September 23 is connected with the 1923 Uprising organized by the Bulgarian Communist Party. August 23 which bears no ideological colouring was recently fixed as the Day of the Bulgarian Army.

"We are well aware of the fact that we will have to overcome serious difficulties on our way out of the crisis. We are also aware of the desire of our people to break free from old habits and to embark on the road to economic and political stability," President Zhelyu Zhelev said in his speech.

The international situation is complicated, especially in the USSR and in the Balkans. It constantly requires changes of beliefs and the removal of stereotypes and patterns in the settlement of the basic problems related to the guarantees for Bulgaria's national security, the president pointed out.

The people of Bulgaria has never had reasons to doubt that the Army is a reliable guarantee for the peaceful transition to a democratic society, the president pointed out in his speech in the celebrations at Peak Shipka.

The president's stand was supported by the minister of defence, Gen. Yordan Mutafchiev, who said that "now in the ministry there is not a single officer or general to believe that political ends can be achieved through the use of arms."

In connection with the events in the USSR Gen. Mutafchiev said in an interview with "OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK": "I have met with Gen. Yazov many times and we know each other well. I think he is an expert in military affairs. I cannot account for his participation in the coup."

Government Prepared To Recognize Baltics

LD2608154891 Prague CTK in English 1334 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Prague Aug 26 (CTK)—"Czechoslovakia, like a host of other countries, is prepared to officially recognise Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and to initiate ... diplomatic relations with them", President Vaclav Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky told a press conference today.

Zantovksky said at his weekly briefing that the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs is preparing materials for the next cabinet session scheduled to take place on Thursday.

Karel Schwarzenberg, the head of the president's office, was in Moscow on Saturday for the burial of three young men killed in the resistance to last week's abortive coup attempt. He also met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the three Baltic republics. According to Zantovsky, Schwarzenberg was given a letter for Havel from Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, indicating "the readiness of the Lithuanian Republic to activate mutual relations".

Zantovsky also reacted to recent calls by right-wing politicians for the thorough removal of Communists from public life in Czechoslovakia: "Our society reacted to the events in the Soviet Union as a stabilised democratic society.... The president's policy is to continue steadily down the path to a fully stabilised democracy, a market economy and full integration in the structures of Europe".

Zantovsky said that radical measures would turn the country back rather than moving it ahead, but he admitted the need to "intensify efforts to fully clarify the past, possibly including the punishment by legal means of people who consciously damaged this country and served totalitarianism".

Referring specifically to the August 1968 Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion, he mentioned the possibility of acquiring "documents ... from the Soviet or Russian Government, including the so-called letter of invitation". Then Soviet leaders claimed to have received a "letter of invitation" from Czechoslovak officials appealing to them to invade to save socialism, but the letter has never been made public.

On the preparation of a new bilateral treaty with the Soviet Union, Zantovsky said negotiations will continue once the situation in the Soviet Union stabilises. "We are interested in maintaining good bilateral relations with all our neighbours. And that means also concluding bilateral treaties with (them)."

Asked about the outlook for Czechoslovakia's integration into NATO, Zantovsky said that "Czechoslovakia would have to be invited by the Atlantic Alliance's supreme bodies. At the moment, it does not seem probable that the NATO member states would wish to do this. Nevertheless, the president wants to seek closer relations with the Atlantic Alliance", including gradual increasing the compatibility of the defence systems of Czechoslovakia and NATO.

Asked what Havel thinks about the influence of the recognition of the Baltic republics on Slovak separatists (who want Slovakia to withdraw from the Czechoslovak Federation - ed.), Zantovsky said Havel "believes that it is in the interest of the citizens of both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to maintain the federation and to seek its stability."

Havel believes that the future form of the Czechoslovak Federation should be decided in a popular referendum, Zantovsky added.

He said Havel does not plan to take part in the CSCE conference on human rights scheduled to be held in Moscow September 10.

Deputies Adopt Resolution on Baltics Recognition

LD2308182891 Prague CTK in English 1558 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Prague Aug 23 (CTK)—A resolution, calling on the Czechoslovak Government to support moves leading to the international recognition of the Baltic republics—Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—was adopted by the foreign committees of the Czechoslovak parliament at their session today.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier assured the deputies that in formulating the Czechoslovak foreign policy, his ministry will take into consideration the changing situation in the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous said now it is the best time for Czechoslovakia to ask the Soviet Union for documents on the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia which are probably deposited in the archives of the Supreme Soviet and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Carnogursky Sees No Threat From USSR

LD2308181491 Bratislava Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky with reporter Lubomir Lintner; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Lintner] [passage omitted] As a politician and as Slovak prime minister, how did you view the 60 hours of the Soviet coup?

[Carnogursky] All in all, calmly. In my view, 70 years of communism exhausted the potential of Russia, of the Union republics, and of the entire Union so much that the Soviet Union currently has no potential to become a serious threat to other states. Therefore, I think that even

if the coup attempt had succeeded, for a long time the Soviet Union could not threaten anybody seriously, including us. However, I must say that these were hours of danger for us because we are neighbors of the USSR. Naturally, the developments in the USSR will impact on us. If not in any other way, it could make our economic relations worse, or there could have been an influx of refugees. Therefore, I was relieved when it all took a turn for the better. [passage omitted]

I want to note that the Union treaty is interesting for me, because in comparison with this treaty, our Czechoslovak internal discussions look rather petty.

[Lintner] During the three days, I had the opportunity to hear concerns being voiced more than once about whether some structures would become active in our country, whether the Army and the police would be abused, and whether, in this way, the situation prior to November 1989 could be restored.

[Carnogursky] We have reports only of really sporadic shows of sympathy in Slovakia with the Soviet putchists. I think such displays of sympathy could not be expected in the Army or in the police forces, because even if the putchists won in the USSR, they would not have too great a chance of being able to spread their influence to our country.

[Lintner] At the briefing of the Civic Democratic Party, Vaclav Klaus demanded that in the interests of reinforcing the security of our country, the names of all collaborators of Czechoslovak secret police and the KGB should be speedily publicized. The Civic Democratic Party also insists on immediately adopting the law of the Federal Assembly to set conditions for working in certain offices. What is your view on this, Mr. Prime Minister?

[Carnogursky] For about two months, a law has been in the works on screening some former higher officials of the Communist Party and members of the former Secret Police in some sensitive posts. This law is likely to be adopted in September. It is important that we are able to maintain a cool head and proceed in keeping with the law, in this era of heightened emotions. The appeal of Vaclav Klaus, in my view, is not in line with this effort to approach things in a matter of fact way.

[Lintner] You have mentioned Slovak-Czech relations. How do you view them in connection with the military coup in Moscow? Some views in Prague and in Bratislava show that the events were a card in the hands of some opponents of Slovak emancipation.

[Carnogursky] It is possible that somebody wants to make such an explanation of the events in the Soviet Union, but it is a false explanation. The events in the Soviet Union show how important a strong position of the republics is for thwarting such an attempt. We can well imagine what turns the events in the USSR could have taken if the Russian Federation did not have the strong position it currently has, and if the Russian Federation did not have its own president who was able to concentrate around himself the citizens of Moscow and Russia. We can imagine what turn the events in the Soviet Union would take if no democratic elections had taken place in the Russian Federation, which gave Boris Yeltsin legitimate status and the right to act as firmly and as courageously against the putschists as he did. The events in the USSR confirm the legitimacy of the efforts of nations and national republics to have a strong position.

[Lintner] [passage omitted] Do you feel that a certain era is finished forever?

[Carnogursky] Yes. The coup attempt and its defeat probably means a definite weakening of the power of the Communist Party and, I would even say, of communist parties elsewhere in the world. In the USSR, it probably means the end of the Communist Party. [passage omitted]

[Lintner] Will there be any collisions in the coming period between two opposite political poles; that is, between Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev? Boris Yeltsin made his views known clearly at the meeting of the Muscovites, and Mikhail Gorbachev his at the news conference.

[Carnogursky] It is possible. The difference is in the fact that Boris Yeltsin clearly identifies himself with the side of a power that is rising, while Mikhail Gorbachev is more with the side of a power whose era is finishing.

[Lintner] Do you think that, in connection with these events, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia will find themselves in Western European democratic structures sooner? [passage omitted]

[Carnogursky] Yes. Voices calling for this have been heard in Western Europe in the last few days. This is a good development. It would be a paradox if we became the first victors of the Soviet events. If this development—that is, a speedier admission of the Central European states into the European Community—should really happen, it should speed up our efforts to achieve the independent position of Slovakia within the framework of Western European integration.

[Lintner] Now for a different topic. I am concerned about one event this week: the vandalism in the Jewish cemetery in Trencin, where Nazi swastikas were painted on tombstones. It would be good to investigate the case as soon as possible, because various guesses are being made as to who might have led the people who did it.

[Carnogursky] It is really a weighty event. My reaction to it is that I sent a telegram with an apology to the chairman of the Slovak Jewish religious community. It is a weighty event because now, as we are seeking our place in Europe, and as our placement in European integration and democratic structures is feasible, it is necessary that Slovakia have a reputation in Europe as a republic and as a nation in which all its citizens are respected, in which

there is no anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred for other people. Therefore, in Slovakia we must avoid this sort of action as in Trencin. The police are intensely looking for the perpetrators. If we can find them, they will be punished. Whoever tries something similar in the future will be punished as well.

Meciar Expands on Grand Coalition Proposal

AU2508183491 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 22 Aug 91 p 2

[Ivan Rajecky report: "Fabrications Harm the Truth"]

[Text] "In my opinion, in August 1968 the development of the society was reversed toward the opposite direction, hopes were suppressed, and the Republic was forcibly deprived of its right to freedom," said Vladimir Meciar, chairman of the For a Democratic Slovakia Movement [HZDS], at the beginning of the movement's regular briefing yesterday, when he commemorated events that took place 23 years ago. He compared them to the present development of the situation in the USSR. He also mentioned the HZDS declaration condemning the undemocratic course of action by which the Soviet president was deposed.

It was discussed whether he [Meciar] was serious when he spoke a week ago about establishing a large coalition, and about the possibility that things could even go so far that the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] could possibly establish a "single color" government, that is, a government composed only of its own members. "Of course we are serious, and we are still convinced that such a coalition could be established," he said. He also said that people are erroneously informed. In his opinion, the HZDS does not have 18 votes in the Slovak legislature but 19, and the Public Against Violence movement [PAV] does not have 30 votes but 24. In such a situation, it is not possible for the Slovak constitution to be passed. A total of 90 votes is needed for this. However, if the HZDS, the KDH, the Green Party, the 22 votes of the Slovak National Party, and parties outside the coalition united, then this would make 100 votes, and that would be enough. He also said that the KDH suggested that, in the interests of Slovakia, a similar course of action be taken in the Federal Assembly. When the transfer of power was discussed (the suggested "single-color" government) he said that the PAV gave up its power at a time when it was still united. He added: "We are an opposition movement; we react to new situations. We do not strive for power or for a return to government positions, but we strive for the development of Slovakia."

Federal Assembly Deputy Roman Zelenay gave his opinion on the issue of establishing the Slovak Foreign Institute. He said that the institute was the PAV's original proposal, which was later expanded by former Prime Minister Meciar. The institute's main task should be the schooling of new diplomats. The proposal has not been fully put into practice but, as of 1 September, at the Charles University Faculty of Law, new work places and one department will be established, which can be considered the initial realization of this interesting project. Speaking of diplomacy, one question remained unanswered: the recall of the CSFR ambassador to Holland, Mr. Abraham. HZDS Deputy Chairman Michal Kovac and Roman Zelenay said that they, as well as the former ambassador, were examining reasons leading to the ambassador's recall but had found nothing. The reason for his recall may reportedly be the screenings—but the documents were not declassified.

"The political map of Slovakia and Bohemia will change significantly after elections," said the HZDS chairman. Asked whether the HZDS held discussions with rightist parties in Bohemia, he replied that they did, but they also held discussions with leftist parties. It is necessary to hold discussions and become familiar with one's partners' suggestions, he said.

Yesterday's HZDS briefing had a peaceful atmosphere. On 19 August, the movement's board voted that to calm down the political scene, the HZDS will not attack anyone and that it will not respond to any attacks. This is what we could see yesterday.

'Grand Coalition' Analyzed

AU2308155791 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 16 Aug 91 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "The Christian Democratic Movement's Weight Reinforced"]

[Text] Although [Slovak ex-Prime Minister Vladimir] Meciar's offer to create a coalition with the Christian Democrats was not immediately accepted, the very fact that the [Meciar-led] Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] dared to come up with such an initiative might be a positive signal for future developments on the Slovak political scene. If the HZDS' subsequent steps manage to convince the others about its permanently good intentions, the offer will no longer leave some politicians with the impression that it is a "naively set trap for the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH]." For the time being, the rejection of the proposal to form a so-called grand coalition can be explained in the context of past experience when Vladimir Meciar used a too confrontational tone against some KDH representatives, as though he did not consider them potential coalition partners in the future.

By not claiming for himself a government function in the grand coalition that he proposes, the ex-prime minister apparently realizes the degree of his own responsibility for the damage done in Slovak politics. The potential coalition partners should understand this as a positive political act and definitely not as a propaganda gesture, if they do not place their party and power interests above current social problems, such as the problems connected with the settlement of Czech-Slovak relations on the level of partnership or with the drastic impact of radical economic reform on citizens' living standards. Realistic

politicians also should not make the mistake of ignoring the HZDS' influence and should leave to it the opposition's prerogative to criticize the government without bearing the risk of responsibility.

Meciar's undeniable merit is that he managed to suppress his own ambitions—although his adversaries do not believe that. Regardless of what his motives may have been, it is necessary to proceed from the fact that he does not make the fate of the so-called grand coalition dependent on specific persons. Viewed from this perspective, the HZDS's initiative creates scope for discussions that might correct the shape of Meciar's proposal in such a way that it does not appear as a trap for Christian Democrats. Precisely these discussions might confirm that at issue is a permanently good intention, rather than a maneuver whose ultimate aim is to weaken the KDH.

If the KDH representatives' reaction was such that no coalition is ruled out in the future, that is no reason to regard the proposal to create a so-called grand coalition as irrelevant at the moment. The proposal will, in the very least, reinforce the KDH's weight vis-a-vis the Public Against Violence movement, its coalition partner, which will have to act with the awareness that, on some fundamental matters, the Christian Democrats command the support of the most influential opposition movement. It needs to be added that, even on the Czech political scene, a coalition alliance between the HZDS and the KDH is not being ruled out as a future partner for the Czech representation on the Slovak side. This is another reason that Meciar's initiative should not be dismissed only as a cheap maneuver.

[Meciar's offer to form a "grand coalition" with the KDH is also the subject of a 700-word Stefan Hrib commentary, entitled "The KDH's Temptation," in Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Slovak on 19 August on page 2. Hrib writes that the aim of Meciar's proposal is "quite clear—to definitely push the VPN out of the Slovak political scene." This aim, Hrib says, is not motivated by the HZDS's opposition to the VPN's economic policies, which have repeatedly been "positively assessed" by Rudolf Filkus, the chief HZDS economic expert, but by Meciar's "evidently irrational hatred of the VPN." Although the KDH leaders' initial reactions to the HZDS offer have been negative, Hrib believes that "one should wait for the return of Jan Klepac from his vacation," because it is on Klepac that the HZDS "is pinning great hopes." Hrib concludes his commentary by saying that "the future of the CSFR lies in the hands of the Christian Democrats." Their rejection of the HZDS offer "will mean the preservation of the common state," while their acceptance of the offer would mean their "opting for the common state's breakup."]

ODS: No 'Third Way'; Dubcek Should Resign

AU2308151291 Prague CTK in English 1637 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Prague Aug 21 (CTK)—The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) said today the current situation in the Soviet Union confirmed that any attempt to reform communism via a so-called third way leads to economic and political collapse ending in a power struggle.

ODS Deputy Chairman Miroslav Macek said the events in the Soviet Union show where half-hearted solutions, lack of consistency in the elimination of the communist system and a lack of ideas in practical policy lead.

ODS Chairman Vaclav Klaus rejected generalized, idle proclamations denouncing the coup in Moscow and said his party will concentrate mainly on the practical problems facing the Czechoslovak population.

The ODS club in the Czech National Council (parliament) today said it will seek the immediate publication of the names of all members and secret collaborators of the former Czechoslovak secret police (StB) and the Soviet KGB in order to strengthen the internal security of the state.

At a press conference, the ODS deputies said they will also demand that the Czech Government take measures to ensure the internal security of the Czech Republic.

[NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak, on 22 August on page 2, carries a report on the ODS meeting, stating that the ODS insists on Federal Assembly Chairman Dubcek's resignation as soon as the law barring former Communist Party of Czechoslovakia's functionaries from holding certain important positions enters into force.]

Slovak Democrats Oppose Referendum Proposal

AU2308160791 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 16 Aug 91 p 2

[CTK report: "A Trap for the Christian Democratic Movement"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Slovak National Democratic Movement (SNDH) has described the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] proposal to create a grand coalition with the Christian Democratic Movement as a trap for the Christian Democrats. As Marcel Mihalik, SNDH first deputy chairman, said at yesterday's press briefing in Bratislava, it is possible that the HZDS does not take this proposal seriously. He described the HZDS attempt to unite Slovak political representatives on the national principle as considerate. However, this attempt is, so far, on a "verbal level" only. The National Democrats regard the constitutional law on a referendum approved by the Federal Assembly as "a derision of democracy" and describe it as "a pressure-exerting law against the national current of Slovak initiatives." The Slovak National Council could prevent a referendum from being declared by approving Slovak sovereignty.

The SNDH sees a solution to Czechoslovakia's future constitutional and legal arrangement in the adoption of the draft Declaration on Sovereignty and the subsequent approval of the so-called pure Slovak Constitution. That is, a constitution for an independent state that should guarantee Slovakia's international legal status.

Sladek Verbally Attacks President Havel

AU2308143591 Prague OBCANSKY DENIK in Czech 19 Aug 91 p 7

["(oc)"-signed report: "Will There Be Shooting Next?"]

[Text] In a very complex speech delivered on the evening of 17 August, Miroslav Sladek, chairman of the Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia, described the president of the Republic, among other things, as a murderer, an alcoholic, a drug addict, a thief, a blackguard, and a rogue. The obviously insane Republican leader declared that he hopes Vaclav Havel will soon return to prison.

Some 100 to 200 demonstrators greeted these words with enthusiastic applause. Sladek declared that the truce has come to an end and called upon his followers to attack: "We are the ones who will give the commands."

Despite the fact that this Republican demonstration was less well attended than previous ones, the "Republicans" manifested considerable aggression. Several journalists were roughed up and subjected to abuse. Numerous physical attacks were targeted on the police and the Black Sheriffs guarding the Czechoslovak Television building. All the security forces behaved with restraint, but they did not permit a direct assault.

Early Saturday morning, the local authorities in Prague 4 banned the demonstration because it had deviated from its declared purpose. The demonstration's organizers did not heed the local authorities' appeal to disperse, but the police did not intervene because the local authorities did not ask them to.

Miroslav Sladek whipped up the crowd's aggression with his speeches and, among other things, appealed to those present to arm themselves with guns for the next demonstration. It is possible to extract his remark about Czechoslovak Radio from the abuse hurled at politicians and journalists: "They are all lying swine."

Charged With Defamation

AU2308142491 Prague CTK in English 1503 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Prague Aug 21 (CTK)—Miroslav Sladek, chairman of the Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC), has been charged with defaming the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and its leaders.

A press secretary from the Prague Prosecutor's Office today told CTK the charges are being brought for statements Sladek allegedly made in a speech to 500 demonstrators in front of the Czechoslovak Television building on the evening of August 17.

The demonstration began Friday at 1700 and lasted 45 hours as Sladek led SPR-RSC members and supporters to the TV headquarters for the second time in the last three months, calling for the resignation of TV director Jiri Kanturek.

Sladek also called for early elections and the overthrow of the Czechoslovak government, which he claims is still controlled by communists.

Czech Economic Decline Reported in July

AU2308181391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 19 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

["vl"-signed report: "July: A Further Decline in the Czechoslovak Economy"]

[Text] July did not bring—except for a certain, perhaps only temporary stabilization of prices—the desirable turnabout in the development of our economy; in some instances, the decline accelerated even further.

These data, however, must be taken with a grain of salt because the Federal Statistical Office report is based on preliminary data, and the final results have always proven to be somewhat better. Nevertheless, the general conclusions cannot change much. Prices appear to be more and more the cardinal issue of further developments. The price escalation in the first months of the year to a great degree restrained the demand, and the reduced marketing comes back like a boomerang with the countereffect on the production and manufacturers. Another matter is the quality of production without which it would be difficult to penetrate foreign markets.

These facts mark the situation in industrial and agricultural production and in construction and trade. Overall industrial production (i.e. including small business and the private sector), compared with July 1990, declined last month by 22 percent; during the first seven months of the year it declined by 15.7 percent, compared to the same period of last year, according to a preliminary estimate. Industrial production in enterprises with more than 100 employees was in comparable prices—established from registers—24.9 percent lower in July, and 17.7 percent lower since the beginning of the year.

The greatest decline in production of goods has been experienced in clothing industry (34.7 percent over the seven months from the beginning of the year as compared to the same period of last year), in nonferrous metallurgy (-31.6 percent), leather-working industry (-27.9 percent), electrical engineering (-27.8 percent), etc. Production rose during this period only in the fuel industry (+2.8 percent).

Shipments for export (by enterprises with more than 100 employees expressed in current manufacturer's price without sales tax) totalled 125.1 billion korunas in the first half of the year. Hence, adjusting for price changes, compared to the first half of last year, they were 8.6 percent lower, which still is relatively favorable. On the other hand, shipments for domestic market in the value of 108.0 billion korunas were 25.4 percent lower than in the same period last year.

The number of employees registered in the industrial enterprises (with more than 100 employees) further declined in July. In July itself, it was 12.4 percent lower, and since the beginning of the year 9.4 percent lower (9.2 percent in the Czech Republic, 10.1 percent in the Slovak Republic) than last year.

Construction fared even worse than industry this year. Its overall production (including small business and private sector) is estimated at 70 percent of last year's production. The decline in volume of construction work manifested itself in all areas of construction activity, above all in repairs and other work, less in new construction. The general slowdown hits mostly larger enterprises.

According to preliminary estimates, the overall construction production in July, compared to July of last year, declined by 20.5 percent. According to contracts, the construction work done by construction companies with more than 100 employees compared to the same period last year declined in July by 34.8 percent, and since the beginning of the year by 37.2 percent.

The current topical issue in agriculture is the harvest. The latest estimates describe the expected crop of basic cereals (except corn) as 10.9 million tonnes, i.e. approximately 1.1 million tonnes less than last year's record crop of 12 million tonnes. The procurement in animal production declined further, although the available date in this instance are not dependable. A certain, and apparently ever greater part of the production is marketed through alternate routes, particularly by direct sale from producer to consumer.

Over the first seven months of this year, the procurement organizations purchased 24.8 percent fewer slaughter animals, 20.2 percent less milk, and 37.9 percent fewer eggs than over the same period last year from primary producers.

The current situation is reflected also in the reduced demands by the shippers on railways. The Czechoslovak Railways transported 13.3 million tonnes of goods in July, which is only 66.2 percent of last July's volume, and since the beginning of the year 117.0 million tonnes or 77.9 percent when compared to last year.

The number of unemployed reached 362,700 people at the end of last month, i.e. 4.6 percent of the available work force. Almost 50,000 graduates were not placed in jobs by 31 July.

A detailed report on the developments in consumer prices and cost of living for July and for the first seven months of the year has been already been published (HOSPODARSKE NOVINY 15 August 1991). Compared to June, consumer prices stayed at approximately the same level. Of course, their overall increase since last December (+49.2 percent) has been reflected in the increased cost of living for all social groups of the population and in reduced purchase of goods.

Overall retail sales (including small business and private sector) reached, in the period January to July, the volume of 206.1 billion korunas (in current prices) according to preliminary estimates, and it was 3 percent higher when compared to the same period last year. The retail turnover of the marketing organizations, reported by organizations with more than 100 employees, was 138.1 billion korunas (in current prices), and it was 8.6 percent lower than in the comparable period last year. When expressed in comparable prices, the volume of physical sales declined by 37.9 percent (45 percent by organizations with more than 100 employees).

Last month, the Federal Statistical Office and the Czech and Slovak Statistical Offices conducted a time-serving survey in selected enterprises. Of the polled industrial enterprises, 40 percent do not hope for any substantial changes in the third quarter compared to the second quarter, 10 percent are optimistic, and 50 percent fear further deterioration. The expectations are similar in construction. In domestic marketing, 82 percent of those polled expect a further decline in retail sales.

The price expectations offer a more promising view. A retail price decline is expected in the third quarter by 47 percent of those polled, 30 percent expect no changes, and only 23 percent of the polled enterprises predict further price increases. Regarding local production and import shipments, the marketing organizations expect a decline rather than growth, while their structure—at least, according to the organizations—apparently would not change substantially.

Update on Progress of Czech Privatization Process

AU2308150991 Prague CTK in English 1820 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Prague Aug 20 (CTK)—The greatest difficulty facing the privatization of Czechoslovakia's state-owned enterprises will be coordinating the coupon method, in terms of timing and logistics, with the more standard approaches such as auctions and direct sales, Czech Privatization Minister Tomas Jezek told reporters today.

The total value of state enterprises to be privatized using the coupon method in the "large privatization" process comes to 140,000 million crowns (4,667 million USD) [currencies as received] in the Czech Republic and 70,000 million crowns (2,333 million USD) in Slovakia, said Jezek, whose full title is Czech minister for the

administration and privatization of national property. These figures represent the value of the enterprise plus real estate, he explained.

By the end of this month, the Czech Privatization Ministry will have selected all the enterprises to be privatized using the coupon method in the Czech Republic. The next step will be to evaluate the privatization projects submitted to the ministry by each of the 2,490 enterprises to be purchased in the first phase, Jezek said. This will be an extremely demanding process as some of them will propose more than one possible project, he noted.

As of August 15, 7,058 stores and retail outlets had been auctioned off for a total of 5,700 million crowns (190 million USD) in the small privatization process, Jezek said. 8,723 units selected for small privatization remain unsold.

Jezek said his ministry has so far received 50,000 requests from individuals for the return of property seized by the communists after 1948. September 30 is the deadline for submitting restitution claims.

Differences Over Pipeline Privatization Viewed

AU2308174791 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 17 Aug 91 p 4

[CTK report: "Talks About the Gas Pipeline"]

[Text] Prague—"There are diverse views on dividing up the property and on the course of action in privatizing the transit gas pipeline," said Minister V. Kraus, Czech deputy economic policy and development minister, in an interview with CTK following his talks in Prague yesterday with Slovak Deputy Economy Minister J. Prno. However, the talks involving Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky, CSFR Economy Minister V. Dlouhy, and other officials—due to take place next week—could influence many things. The Czech side thinks that the property issue can only be discussed on the basis of a law that would have to be approved by the Federal Assembly. Its draft is being prepared and should be submitted to the Federal Government for discussion by the end of August. However, according to the Slovak original point of view, it would be possible to divide up the property now in accordance with the territorial principle, on the basis of Article 4 Paragraph 4 of the Law on the Federation. Following yesterday's meeting, the Slovak side has decided to express its opinion after the draft law prepared by the Federal Economy Ministry has been considered. Privatization is another contentious issue. According to the Czech side, it should be implemented on the basis of a plan prepared by a select foreign company. The Slovak partners feel that, on the contrary, privatization should proceed as quickly as possible and that an exemption from the law or another form could be utilized for this.

Press Briefing on SFRY Aircraft Violations

LD2308142191 Budapest MTI in English 1311 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Budapest, August 23 (MTI)—Yugoslav fighter aircraft on Thursday violated Hungarian airspace, said Brigadier General Jozsef Biro, deputy of the chief of staff of the Hungarian Army, at a press briefing in the Hungarian Ministry of Defence in Budapest on Friday.

Eight aircraft violated Hungarian airspace on three occasions. The aircraft flew at a height of 100 to 300 metres, and penetrated 1-3 kilometres into Hungary, in the region of the south Hungarian settlements of Pecs and Mohac.

Between June 1 and August 23, Yugoslav aircraft flew into Hungarian airspace on eight occasions, five of these incidents were committed by military aircraft, Biro said.

On good faith the Hungarian military leadership supposes that the violations were not intended as military operations against Hungary but occurred as a result of the pilots' lack of discipline and orientation.

At the same time, it cannot be excluded, either, that the aim of the aircraft flying into Hungarian airspace was military reconnaissance. An especially worrying moment is that one of the aircraft that entered Hungarian airspace fired one air-to-ground missile at a Yugoslav settlement.

The Yugoslav chief of staff has apologised for the violations of Hungarian airspace and promised to prevent further ones, Brigadier General Biro said.

Yesterday's events are unprecedented. Biro phoned the military and air attache of the Yugoslav Embassy in Hungary on Thursday evening to inform him that the violations have created concern among the population and within the state and military leadership of Hungary. He asked the attache to inform the Yugoslav chief of staff immediately and to take the necessary steps to prevent further air space violations.

The Yugoslav military attache was surprised to learn about the new developments concerning Yugoslav aircraft entering Hungary, and promised to contact the chief of staff immediately to report Hungarian objections, Biro said.

He stressed that in this situation, the political and military leaders of Hungary were compelled to introduce prudent restrictive measures.

"Hungary wishes to avoid more serious consequences and does not want to interfere with the internal affairs of Yugoslavia," Brigadier General Biro said. "All our neighbours, however, will have to acknowledge the fact that we cannot leave the borders and air space of Hungary unprotected. This is our right and obligation, the fulfillment of which is expected by the population as well," Biro added.

To a question by MTI, Biro replied that the National Security Cabinet has been continuously discussing the violations and the Hungarian Army has taken the necessary military measures as instructed and backed by the cabinet.

The Hungarian General Staff has been maintaining contact with the general staff of Austria and the exchange of information between them has been continuous. (Yugoslavian aircraft have violated Austrian air space more times than Hungarian air space.)

"The last time we discussed the violations with the Austrian military attache was in the Hungarian Ministry of Defence on Thursday," Brigadier General Biro said.

Violations Fail To Prompt Forces' Mobilization

LD2308183391 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Major General Jozsef Biro, chief of the military operations group and first deuty to the chief of general staff, by unidentified announcer in Budapest on 23 August—live or recorded]

[Text] [Biro] Regarding the border violations that took place on three occasions yesterday, I can say that we have evaluated the situation, and in accordance with the decision of the high-level military leadership, in essence the following has happened:

The ground forces remain in the same situation as before; in essence, there is no mobilization. The troops are in the barracks. We are not planning for them to leave the barracks. They live their everyday life as has been the case to date. We feel that the situation does not justify anything; it is not such that we might have to implement some change in the ground forces.

[Announcer] And in the other armed forces?

[Biro] In the other armed forces, the national air defense troops, with regard to the incident yesterday and the activities that are generally taking place now in the area, we have taken steps, measures of a certain type. I must say that the purpose of these is primarily that we should have the necessary foresight so that we should be able to satisfactorily assess and view the air situation in our surroundings, thus in our southern neighborhood. To this end, we have taken certain steps, measures for radar reconnaissance, so that we have adequate information.

Border Guard Official Discusses Orders To Fire

LD2408175791 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] The order to fire continues to be effective at the [Hungarian-Yugoslav] border. Have the Hungarian border guards had to use firearms so far? We asked Janos Zubek, spokesman for the border guard, on the phone:

[Zubek] Fortunately, the Hungarian border guard has not had to use firearms for a very long time. This partial

order to fire stipulates that anyone—no matter what their intentions—entering the territory of the Hungarian Republic with a weapon should be, first of all, disarmed. If the person in question disobeys and wants to use or uses his weapon on Hungarian territory, then the Hungarian border guard must fire immediately.

Regarding aircraft, the order to fire immediately only applies to alien aircraft flying in Hungarian airspace, attacking a Hungarian target, border guards, or any other target.

If a shot is fired from Yugoslavia toward Hungarian territory, it must not be returned, because we do not want an international conflict, an international scandal. No such case has taken place so far. However, once some refugees came from Yugoslavia with weapons, but, with no exceptions, they have obeyed the command to place their weapons on the ground.

Border Guard Reinforced, Refugees Continue Coming

LD2308192691 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] At the beginning of a news briefing, Janos Zubek, spokesman for the Border Guard said that it is not a question of a refugee flood but of hundreds of escapees. Between 17 August and 1300 this afternoon, 2,262 people crossed the border, asking for temporary protection. Requests were made for refugee status by a total of 13 adults and seven children. It has been a pattern in the past three months that the refugees stay in Hungary for a total of eight to 10 days, and then they return to their country. It is necessary for the offices for refugee affairs to look after slightly more than 1,000 people, primarily mothers with small children, elderly, and sick people who are arriving. There are scarcely any middle-aged men. Of those fleeing, 70 percent are Croats, 25 to 27 percent are Magyar, and the remainder are of Serbian nationality.

In spite of the few requests so far, the government is prepared to provide for and shelter the escapees. There are moves to ensure humane conditions for all of them at temporary accommodation or in refugee camps.

The Border Guard offices do not make allowances for those who come with arms. From 1700 this afternoon, if one does not voluntarily lay down his arms, whether he crosses the border by air or on foot, the border guards can open fire on him.

The border stretch of the Mohacs-Dravaszabolcs area is being defended by reinforced formations of soldiers and border guards.

County 'Unable To Cope' With Refugee 'Flood'

LD2308092691 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0400 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] During the past days, refugees from Yugoslavia have been arriving to Hungary en masse. In the county of Baranya, temporary hostels are being opened one after another. At the same time, those responsible in the county are hoping for assistance from the Office of Refugee Affairs, as they are unable to cope with the flood alone. Our colleague Tamas Luigish interviewed the head of the Office of Refugee Affairs, Istvan Markus:

[Begin recording] [Markus] First of all, they are asking for temporary accommodation for transitional refugees: in most cases, they are arriving to Hungary with no intention of permanently settling here. In the villages in Baranya, they are staying at camping sites. There are also those who ask for a place in our temporary accommodations.

[Luigish] Approximately how many are there applying for temporary accommodations?

[Markus] Since 18 August, the number of those arriving has jumped significantly. In the past days, we have had to find places for around 800 refugees.

[Luigish] If this number multiplies, will you be able to place them somewhere in refugee camps?

[Markus] Naturally if the crisis continues, if they continue arriving because of civil war conditions, then we have to make every effort to fulfill our international duties in accordance with international practice. Our position is not particularly rosy with respect to accomodations, but in spite of this we will do everything possible to ensure the necessary assistance, together with the organisations and local governments concerned. [end recording]

Border Official Reports on Croatian Refugees

LD2508033591 Budapest MTI in English 1755 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Budapest, August 24 (MTI)—Until 17 p.m. [as received] on Saturday, 45 refugees arrived from Croatia to Hungary while 90 people returned to their homes in Croatia, Janos Zubek, spokesman of the Hungarian frontier guard, told the press. Over the past week, almost 2,500 refugees arrived in Hungary, most of them seeking temporary shelter here. About 8,000 Yugoslav citizens are staying in Hungary with a passport. On the Yugoslav border, travellers heading for Hungary had to wait for three hours at Hercegszanto and eight hours at Roszke. Those crossing the border at Tompa did not have to wait at all. On the Hungarian-Romanian border, travellers coming to Hungary had to wait for 4-6 hours at Nagylak, Gyula and Artand.

Horvath Concerned About Tensions on Border

AU2608103091 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 26 Aug 91 p 6

[Erhard Stackl report: "Hungary: Tensions Along Southern Border"]

[Text] Vienna—Hungarian Minister Without Portfolio Balazs Horvath said in an interview with DER STANDARD in Vienna on 25 August that he was concerned about the development of the conflict between the Serbs and the Croats, which has almost adopted "the character

of a war." Horvath said that "our borders are open and more than 10,000 people have already fled to Hungary." He added that the situation has even been aggravated as a result of massive violations of Hungary's airspace by Yugoslav fighter aircraft.

Horvath denied reports that the Hungarian Government has given its border troops permission to shoot. "Their mandate is much rather to prevent border violations." However, his government hopes that no shots will be fired. It also hopes for a "European solution" to the Yugoslav conflict, which "endangers peace in all of Europe."

Horvath was Hungarian interior minister until December 1990, and has since then been a minister without portfolio and head of the office for Hungarians living abroad. There are 10,000 Hungarians in Slovenia; 40,000 in Croatia, and 500,000 in Serbia. The latter live primarily in the province of Vojvodina, where Hungarian place names have been given Serbian names in recent months. According to Horvath, Hungarian young men have been drafted for the Yugoslav Army and have to fight for Serbian interests against Croatia, "even though it is not their war." The minister does not understand why the Serbs are not ready to grant the Hungarians the same minority rights that they claim for their compatriots in other parts of Yugoslavia.

Goncz Assesses USSR, Yugoslav Events

LD2508173691 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0705 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Interview with President Arpad Goncz by Istvan Wiezinger, place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Wiezinger] When you heard news of Gorbachev being toppled, did you think that something had ended or begun?

[Goncz] The two cannot be separated, first because there is no red line between the beginning and the end, they generally overlap. We do not know precisely today what the future will be either. In any case, a strange thing happened here, in that eight absolutely ham-fisted politicians, in practice, bloodlessly more or less won an unfought revolution for a country. In 60 hours, they reached the point the Hungarian people reached with their revolution in 1956. Hungary, thank goodness, cannot put down this revolution as they put down the Hungarian revolution, so this danger does not threaten the Soviet Union. However, the consequences of this as I see them now are very similar. Naturally, I cannot predict the future.

[Wiezinger] At any rate, the present situation has a few elements it is worth thinking through in detail. For example, it is being said that there is a dual power. Who is really in power now?

[Goncz] I would not dare to predict at all. Obviously, Russia and Russia's credible or charismatic leader is in a key position. However, I consider it very probable that Gorbachev's counterbalancing effect, his renown, and principally his international weight will preserve the relationship that has been hitherto maintained by the Soviet revolution, and the revolution underway in Russia with the outside world.

The world will have more difficulty in digesting the speed of change today than Russia itself. It seems that Russia, the Soviet Union, is mature enough for this. This is shown by the failure of the putsch attempt.

The putschists did not take one thing into account that could have been noted even from the Hungarian revolution, namely that a conscript army is always an integral part of society. This conscript army also showed precisely the same differences and division of opinions that society itself does. They thought that the Army was a (?commandable) monolithic power, though they could not have been too sure of this because, if the reports can be believed, the armed soldiers going in (?from) Moscow did not have live ammunition, and if they did not, then this was because the putschists were not sure that they would not fire in the opposite direction. So, they were counting more on the frightening aspect of their appearance.

[Wiezinger] On the radio this morning, we heard the news that Shevardnadze said further dramatic events can be expected. What can he be thinking of?

[Goncz] You should ask Shevardnadze this, but I take it as very certain that by banning the Communist Party, the Communists—who up to now have opposed the process—have not ceased to exist; their opportunities have been narrowed down at most. Nor do I think that the discontent has disappeared from one day to the next. It is possible that the demands will erupt with much greater force. [passage omitted] What is happening in the Soviet Union affects the whole of Europe. I have always said that there will never be a blank space in the place of the Soviet Union; I have said this several times. There is no blank space in its place now either. Rather, the currents, or even perhaps the direction of the currents, has not changed, but the whole process has speeded up.

[Wiezinger] MTI today contains information that the Soviet press is attacking the person of Gorbachev very openly and decisively. [passage omitted] Will Gorbachev regain his credibility?

[Goncz] [passage omitted] As to whether the world has to prepare for a Soviet Union—that is Russia—without Gorbachev, I do not know. I hope not, because I have great regard for him. I consider him a political genius. In essence, the process will not change. Yeltsin stepping to the fore is also a part of this process, the appearance of Pamyat is also a part of this, as obviously is the KGB and the Party dropping out of the process. The same thing is happening in the Soviet Union as happened, in general, in the European, eastern European revolutions, though in a much more complicated form and on a larger scale. [passage omitted]

[Wiezinger] When I heard the fact yesterday that Gorbachev was dissolving the Soviet Communist Party, the thought sprang to mind that from a certain point of view this would

further ruin his credibility, for he owes everything to this party. If those people who, if you like, ruined things, derailed the wheel of history, now try to turn it back...

[Goncz interrupting] Let me say, we do not know who is turning forward and who backward, and it is terribly difficult to say who is responsible for what and why three days after the events, after the playing out of a moment in history. Gorbachev is responsible for having started the process. Now it is very difficult to hold him responsible for having stopped the process. Gorbachev is part of it anyway. There were certainly steps in which he put the brakes on and those in which he took things forward. It seems that glasnost was more important and successful than perestroyka, for if the people won this revolution then it was their glasnost that won it and not the awareness of perestroyka. [passage omitted]

[Wiezinger] In Hungary, was what happened in the Soviet Union in these few days, these 60 hours, a crisis situation?

[Goncz] Economically definitely, because we did not know how our relations would develop, whether economic relations would be completely ruined or whether they could be maintained. The Hungarian Government also stated in its statements based on a consensus that neither diplomatic nor economic relations could be broken. At present, it seems that the intention is there on both sides that these relations should become warmer, be made more active. What I cannot say is what the economic reality makes possible here, for instance financial capacity, shipping capacity. [passage omitted]

[Weizinger] As a citizen I was very contented to note that a six-party consensus was created, and the prime minister spoke on the television on behalf of the six parties. However, I immediately thought that the lack of Gorbachev immediately created a longing for Gorbachev in Hungary. [passage omitted]

[Goncz] The potential absence of Gorbachev started to worry Hungarian political life. I too was worried. Before we knew Gorbachev's fate, I said two or three times—and the government stated too, indicated in letters, telegrams—that we like Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

[Weizinger] I am bringing up the subject of the possible external effects of the Soviet crisis, because there was a very interesting English reaction yesterday and the day before, when it was stated at several venues that Hungary could get swept into a war with its southern neighbors. What is your view on this?

[Goncz] I hope very much that this danger is not a direct threat. Yesterday was not the first time that this English opinion was formulated; it was given great emphasis in last week's—if I remember correctly—editition of THE ECONOMIST, in its lead article on Yugoslavia; what is more, with the undertone that if Hungary were for some reason to intervene, then it would once and for all slam the door leading into Europe in its own face. The extent to which it affects us is as if there were a fire next to us, for our skin is being scorched by what is going on there. That is indisputable. The refugee flow is coming to us. Naturally, we must accept the refugees without regard for nationality.

[Weizinger] Can we still bear this?

[Goncz] We have to ask for international aid. We cannot say no to this, but we simply do not have the means. After 1956, the world took in 200,000 Hungarians. [passage omitted] At the same time, it is very dangerous, for the battles are going on a few kilometers from the border, and a modern airplane has such a large turning span that it cannot turn beyond the border, so until these battles there quiet down, we must reckon with this kind of border infringement. What is most significant as far as we are concerned is that we should not lose our patience, we should not become hysterical. What is most significant for them is that they should not even think of firing at the refugees here on Hungarian territory, for that would be dangerous for the whole of Europe. The whole Croatian-Serbian war, from a European viewpoint, is dangerous for our region—partly because it can be seen from afar that Hungary is stable, but 2 km beyond its border people are killing each other, a situation that worsens our economic possibilities. [passage omitted]

[Wiezinger] Is there not a danger that perhaps this will continue to cause domestic problems in Hungary? My colleagues a few weeks ago started to call each other Chetniks.

[Goncz] Frankly speaking, I myself like neither the sniping nor people being called Chetniks, or people talking loudly of Croat and Serb nationalism. These are conflicts going back several hundred years. [passage omitted] What is tragic is that things have gone thus far, but it is not our duty to judge.

[Wiezinger] How can the expression of a view be credibly separated from intervention? Obviously, this Yugoslav affair has Hungarian domestic political aspects that perhaps push the domestic political situation in a direction that nobody wants.

[Goncz] I very much trust, precisely in connection with the Russian situation, that something has been created, that in a situation moving toward a crisis, a foreign political consensus has been born. I am convinced that, if this practice remains, then this foreign policy consensus can also continue to survive vis-a-vis the treatment of the Yugoslav crisis. Indeed, it should be maintained because it affects us very closely and burns our skin just as closely [as the Soviet crisis]. [passage omitted]

[Weizinger] They say a crisis brings the family together; the past few days...

[Goncz interrupting] It has brought Hungary together.

[Weizinger] Has it brought Hungary and the leaders together? For example, what are your relations like with the prime minister now?

[Goncz] Significantly more pleasant than before, significantly more pleasant. I participated in all decisions that were in the sphere of foreign policy decisions, and (?we) always participated in this with complete agreement. [passage omitted]

[Weizinger] Some people say we are facing a very hard and critical fall. Do you agree that the fall will be a critical time?

[Goncz] The possibilities for a critical fall exist; I very much trust it will not be critical. I trust in certain internal reserves that will cushion the hard edges of this bumpy period. I cannot predict what will happen, but we have to prepare to forestall social discontent. The truth is that we have taken the first, and not unsuccessful, steps toward the market economy, but the social market economy is still wishful thinking. [passage omitted]

Antall Summons Ambassadors on USSR, SFRY

LD2308201391 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall summoned the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the European Community, the G-7 countries, the USSR, and Austria, in connection with the Soviet situation, which is being sorted out, and the Yugoslav crisis, which is becoming increasingly tragic. He briefly summed up Hungarian foreign policy steps in the past days. He praised the restoration of constitutional order in the Soviet Union. He then emphasized that assistance and wide-ranging international coordination is now necessary. He said that our country has supplies with which it could provide assistance to its large neighbor, but owing to the solvency problems there, there is a need for support from the Western countries in guaranteeing Hungarian export credits.

In connection with the Yugoslav crisis, Jozsef Antall pointed out on this occasion: In accordance with the principles of the Helsinki final document and the Paris Charter, our country has undertaken an obligation that it will not seek a forced change of the borders. Owing to the Magyar minority living there, we consider a guarantee of human rights and minority rights to be necessary. He urged effective international action. Then the prime minister spoke about the refugees flowing into our country and the violations of the border that have occurred on several occasions on the part of Yugoslavia. In conclusion, he said: The government provides diplomats and military attaches accredited in Budapest with the opportunity to visit the southern border region and refugees.

Socialist Chairman Thurmer Views Moscow Coup

AU2308122391 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 21 Aug 91 p 6

[Interview with Gyula Thurmer, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, by an unidentified reporter on 20 July; place not given: "Thurmer Favors Socialism and a United Soviet Union"]

[Text] On Tuesday afternoon, we asked Gyula Thurmer to assess the events that had taken place in the Soviet Union.

[Thurmer] Monday's events are the result of a severe social conflict that has been going on for a long time. The Soviet people's aim is to put an end to the disintegration of the country by using constitutional and peaceful means. Consolidation can begin on the basis of the intentions announced by the Yanayev committee.

[NEPSZABADSAG] On whose side is the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP]?

[Thurmer] We are on the side of those who advocate socialism and a united Soviet Union.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Isn't there a contradiction between the fact that the MSZMP speaks of constitutionality and at the same time supports the Yanayev committee? Indeed, there is no mention of this committee in the Soviet Constitution.

[Thurmer] There are sometimes exceptional situations in history.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Am I correct in believing that you were the last Hungarian politician to speak to Yanayev?

[Thurmer] That is correct. I have known Mr. Yanayev for a long time, and I think that he is a well-prepared and broad-minded politician. I am confident that Yanayev and his associates will find a peaceful way out of the crisis as soon as possible.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Have there been any contacts between the CPSU and the MSZMP since the takeover?

[Thurmer] We are in regular contact over the telephone. I hope that we will have the opportunity to talk at an appropriate level. Furthermore, I would like to advise the Hungarian Government and Hungary's political parties to exercise self-restraint. I am prepared to discuss the Soviet events with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, should the prime minister be interested.

Thurmer on Gorbachev

AU2308122991 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 22 Aug 91 p 4

["S.I."-signed interview with Gyula Thurmer, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party on 22 August; place not given: "Thurmer Respects Gorbachev Again"]

[Text] Yesterday we reported that Gyula Thurmer, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP], had said that Western politicians "would be better advised to support the developments that had started taking place in the Soviet Union...."

We interviewed Thurmer a few hours after reports arrived from Moscow claiming that the takeover organized by the putschists had failed.

[NEPSZAVA] What does Gyula Thurmer have to say now?

[Thurmer] First of all, we need to wait and see how things develop. The reports are contradictory.

[NEPSZAVA] In previous statements, you stood on the side of the hard-liners and Yanayev.

[Thurmer] I maintain my previous point of view. I would like the peoples of the Soviet Union to reach unity and to maintain socialism in their country by using constitutional and peaceful means. This solidarity is not meant for individuals, but for the CPSU. Indeed, I am convinced that the takeover did not change Soviet policy; they would have continued to follow Gorbachev's line. I invariably respect Gorbachev, but I have never concealed the fact that I disagreed with some of his measures. On Tuesday night, I addressed a letter to Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, in which I explained the MSZMP's position. I emphasized that we would like to achieve our political aims by winning the electorate's confidence and by using constitutional means. Incidentally, on Wednesday, I contacted several CPSU members, and I received a promise that I would be able to talk over the telephone with Deputy Secretary General Ivashko after his meeting with Gorbachev.

Daily on Socialists' Views

AU2308122691 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 21 Aug 91 p 7

[Editorial by Pal Bodor: "Diurnus—On a Statement"]

[Text] Newspaper articles write history, events send each other faxes, and the sound of tanks are heard for thousands of kilometers. Meanwhile, Gyula Thurmer's mind has stopped ticking—that is, if his statement was quoted correctly, and if he really did say that the current Soviet leadership did not have a choice....

If I thought that no one else would notice that what the chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP] said was raving lunacy, I would scream through all our newspaper columns.

However, as it is, I will only say (quietly) that Gyula Thurmer's statement only serves the interests of those extreme right-wing forces that want to create appearances, the forces that want to make people think that Hungary is threatened by an extreme left-wing fall back, too.

Those who pretend in this Gorbachev affair that the coup was an excusable and necessary deed—nay, a historical necessity—are playing a tragically bad role. They offer an excuse for any kind of sharp right-wing move.

So there is an enormous need for all sensible people, cold-blooded as well as tempermental people, and all honorable political parties to contribute to a calm balance. Even those who were petty yesterday should be wise when judging the many things that are at stake now.

Fairly recently, Gyula Thurmer reported on his 15-minute telephone conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev, during which the two held talks. It is probably from this telephone conversation that Thurmer—with his great sense of logic—concluded that the Soviet president had to be toppled.

I wonder what kind of conclusions Thurmer would have come back with if he had actually met Gorbachev in person?

Foreign Ministry Reports Recognition of Baltics

LD2408170391 Budapest MTI in English 1520 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Budapest, August 24 (MTI)—On August 24, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry forwarded the following statement of the Republic of Hungary on the Baltic republics' endeavours for independence to the Hungarian news agency MTI:

In the past few days, the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian people, supporting the democratic forces of the Soviet Union, took a resolute stand for averting the danger of totalitarianism threatening Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Government of the Republic of Hungary considers the Molotov- Ribbentrop Pact as invalid and unlawful. Similarly to Russia and other states recognizing the independence of the Baltic states, Hungary holds the endeavours of the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for restoring the sovereignty of their states as justified and supports them. It recognizes and supports the legally elected leaders and state organs of the Baltic republics.

The Government of the Republic of Hungary is confident that the Estonian Republic, the Latvian Republic and the Lithuanian Republic will receive guarantees of international validity for attaining state sovereignty, a goal declared by the people's will, within a short time. This is expected by the democratic forces of the world with justification.

The Government of the Republic of Hungary has authorised the Foreign Ministry to strengthen the representation of the Republic of Hungary in the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Republics and make it possible for these republics to be represented in Hungary appropriately.

The Foreign Ministry will forward this statement to the leaders of the Baltic states officially, through diplomatic channels.

Walesa News Conference on Soviet Situation

LD2208174291 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1515 GMT 22 Aug 91

[News conference with President Lech Walesa and unidentified reporters in Warsaw on 22 August—recorded]

[Text] [Walesa] [no introductory question as received] The party is not liked because it did not fulfill its duties. At this moment no one believes anyone.

[Reporter] You phoned President Mitterand and Mr. Delors and asked them to help Europe. If you were to talk to them today, what would you say to them?

[Walesa] Ladies and gentlemen, the Soviet Union has not solved its problems, it is only starting. It is just beginning to solve its problems, and the faster we [as heard] do that the better for the Soviet Union, for peace in Europe and in the world. And that is why I am publicly asking you once again—the only remedy is the fastest possible linking of us to cooperation aimed at helping the Soviet Union and the pressing reforms there.

[Reporter] Why did you phone General Jaruzelski almost as soon as you heard about the coup?

[Walesa] Ladies and gentlemen, I must use many methods. I am responsible for Poland, for the historical process, and I must choose what kind of solutions will enable me to fulfill that responsibility. Therefore, at that moment—it was not the first call, it was one of the calls in the middle—I decided to talk to him so as to present the situation and ask him where he had an influence to appeal or cooperate so that Poles this time could jointly approach that difficult subject so there would not be any kind of divisions, because many a time in our history when there have been decisive moments, that is when the differences of opinion began. Here is a democratically elected president, and he is responsible for all the solutions. He should consult to a maximum so as to choose the best solutions and not make mistakes. In this consultation, I also needed the views of Jaruzelski and Mr. Kiszczak, and Mr. Jaruzelski. [sentence as heard]

Bielecki Assesses Implications of Soviet Crisis

PM2308144491 Paris LE FIGARO in French 22 Aug 91 p 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki by LE FIGARO correspondent C. Turowski in Warsaw—date not given]

[Text] [Turowski] What did you think of the coup d'etat in the USSR, compared with your own experience in Poland on 13 December 1981?

[Bielecki] First, there was a feeling of sadness and regret because the scenario of events was easy to predict. Our experiences clearly showed that blocking the process of change is impossible, that the thirst for freedom is stronger than violence. Hence my regret that we Poles wasted nine years merely to find ourselves back at the beginning. For me, the Moscow events are reminiscent of the events in Gdansk in 1981—the same flowers on the guns of the tanks, the same hesitations among the soldiers. However, in Gdansk it all ended in a decisive attack on the shipyards because the Polish Government was better prepared, better organized, and more determined.

"In Poland the Army Was Well Prepared"

[Turowski] According to the latest news, the perpetrators of the coup d'etat in the USSR have tried to flee. What is your view?

[Bielecki] According to our information, they have gone to the Crimea to negotiate with President Gorbachev. That would obviously be an appropriate initiative. But there is also another difference with Poland under martial law. In Poland, the Army was determined to go on to the end and was well prepared to do so. In the Kremlin, it was more a palace revolution.

[Turowski] What is now the most dangerous scenario for Poland?

[Bielecki] Even if Gorbachev returns to the Kremlin, it does not mean the end of threats to democratization in the Soviet Union. In our national interest, it is crucial that we should maintain good relations with the USSR and the federated republics. The Soviet economic chaos is an additional threat to us.

[Turowksi] The ruin of Soviet-Polish economic cooperation affects you more than anything else....

[Bielecki] No. Quite the reverse. Events in the USSR have shown that the economic changes were important, but less so than other values that can be named—the survival of the rule-of-law state, freedom, democracy. This also showed Poles, in particular, the extent to which the establishment and maintenance of a rule-of-law state were important. These events have brought another system of values to the fore—the strength of the democratic aspiration.

Precise Timetable for Withdrawal

[Turowski] What effects will all that have on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops stationed in Poland?

[Bielecki] The usual Soviet delegation came to negotiate with us today. It is the eleventh session. We will see how it goes. The delegation came with a precise timetable for withdrawal. I hope that we will soon reach agreement on the date of the final withdrawal.

[Turowski] You have created a crisis cell, in view of the events in the Kremlin. What are its objectives?

[Bielecki] The cell has two main missions: 1) to give us accurate information about what is happening over

there; and 2) to increase cooperation between the government and President Walesa to prepare responses to all the possible scenarios. For instance, on the question of Soviet refugees.

[Turowski] What about the protection of borders?

[Bielecki] We have adopted a different position from the Czechoslovaks. We have not increased the protection of borders that we have left open. But the crisis cell is ready for any eventuality.

[Turowski] Are you afraid that Soviets may ask for political asylum in Poland?

[Bielecki] For the time being, this is not a problem for us. We are trying to react with a spirit of solidarity, remembering that, in the past, we have needed political asylum.

[Turowski] Do you not fear massive Soviet immigration?

[Bielecki] No.

The USSR Between Totalitarianism and Democracy

[Turowski] Do not events in Moscow show the Western countries the need for more practical and rapid aid for states like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary?

[Bielecki] President Walesa and I spoke on Tuesday and Wednesday with virtually all the major Western heads of state, and we emphasized this question. History in the USSR is still hesitating between totalitarianism and democracy, a planned economy and a market economy. We made a definitive choice two years ago. But democratization and above all the conversion of our economy to a free market cost us dear.

We are now facing extreme weariness among the population who have seen their living standards fall and job security, the security of having the bare essentials, called into question. Of course, the conversion of our countries cannot take place overnight. Of course, it essentially depends on us. But more effective aid from the Western countries, access to their markets, and association with the EEC strike us as crucial elements for success. We ought to be seen as a potential area of expansion, attractive to dynamic Western entrepreneurs.

Albania sent a different signal to the West a few days ago—the extremities to which a famished, desperate people can be reduced when they no longer have anything to lose!

Soviet Embassy Expresses Thanks for Support

LD2308234891 Warsaw PAP in English 1742 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 23—The Soviet Embassy in Warsaw on Friday thanked the Polish authorities and society for moral support for progressive forces in the Soviet Union, granted during the recent days of the attempted unconstitutional coup.

The embassy assured Poles that the Soviet foreign policy toward friendly Poland would be aimed at developing good neighborly relations marked by mutual understanding and cooperation.

Walesa Sends Letter to EC Ambassadors

LD2308190191 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] This afternoon EC ambassadors were invited to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to receive a letter from President Lech Walesa. Krystyna Koziol talks to Jerzy Makarczyk, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who handed over the letter:

[Begin recording] [Koziol] May we know the contents of this letter?

[Makarczyk] In its declaration regarding the putsch in the Soviet Union, the Community announced that the negotiations concerning the association of Poland and Hungary with the community should be advanced. At the tripartite meeting that took place immediately after the putsch, we decided to send identical letters from President Walesa, President Havel, and Prime Minister Antall to implement this promise made by the Community.

The negotiations ran into difficulties because some of the countries are at odds with the political declarations of our countries. On the one hand, there is talk of political will, but on the other there are various lobbies—farmers or others—who apply the brakes to negotiations.

We believe that the fact that Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary may be included in Europe, that they might be able to play a significant part in it, especially a political part—and the latest crisis shows how important such a part is—should be a swaying influence on the minds of the leadership of the twelve that the negotiations should be brought to a conclusion in October, that the mandate of the commission for negotiations—the European commission—should be broadened. This association should clearly move toward the future full membership of these three European countries in the European Community.

We understand that this will take much time, and that the Polish economy must readied for these processes, but the political will for membership for these three countries in the EC must be clearly stated. I believe that the present political climate is propitious. That is the content of the letter from Presidents Walesa, Havel, and Prime Minister Antall to the head of the EEC.

[Koziol] Does this mean that a similar ceremony has taken place simultaneously in Prague and Budapest?

[Makarczyk] Yes.

[Koziol] What is the significance of such a letter, apart from its diplomatic significance?

[Makarczyk] This letter goes halfway toward what those countries are at present expecting. Not just the governments, but also the public opinion of those countries, criticize some of the internal organs of those countries and of the community itself for a narrowness of outlook, for a lack of political option about which.... [passage incomplete is as heard] [end recording]

Warsaw 'Ready' For Relations With Baltics

LD2608112391 Warsaw PAP in English 1003 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 26—Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said Monday that Poland was ready to establish diplomatic relations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Skubiszewski explained that the Polish Government expressed its readiness to establish normal relations with those republics at a meeting of the inner Cabinet Monday after "taking into account declarations by the three Baltic republics."

Decisions of 24 Sep Sejm Meeting Reported

LD2508032891 Warsaw PAP in English 1919 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 24—The Sejm (lower house) postponed, at its Saturday meeting, the formal decision on the removal of Grzegorz Wojtowicz as president of the National Bank of Poland (NBP). The motion will be debated at a later date when all doubts related to thh matter are dispelled.

Also the motion, tabled by Prime Minister Krzysztof Bielecki, to dismiss Andrzej Zawislak from the post of industry minister was not discussed. The item was removed from the agenda on the motion of Deputy Ryszard Bugaj (Solidarity of Labour), despite an appeal of Zawislak himself who requested the dismissal as not to complicate the life the prime minister. Premier Bielecki, who attended the meeting, explained that the to date head of the ministry of industry must be removed and a new one appointed prior to setting up the new Ministry of Industry and Trade. "I believe that we will appoint a new minister and set up the new ministry as soon as possible", Bielecki said. Bugaj's motion was passed by 120 votes with 113 against and 26 abstentions.

The Sejm obliged the government to present specific changes and corrections to the agricultural policy, concerning chiefly the credit policy towards agriculture and food economy, by September 5.

The Sejm recognized the situation in agriculture and food economy as dramatic and requested from the government the removal of obstacles in procurement of grain and other agricultural products from this year's harvest.

Head of the office of the Council of Ministers Krzysztof Zabinski presented the governmental draft law on reform in the Army. According to the draft, the National Defense Ministry is to be headed be a civilian and the Army is to be commanded by the head of the general staff of the Polish Army, the general inspector of the Armed Forces. The proposed changes are to separate political function from tasks of the Armed Forces which, according to their promoters, will result in political stability of the state and the Army.

The Sejm failed to pass or reject the Senate's (upper house) amendments to a law on educational system which made the law nonexistent. The amendments concerned the wording of the first article of the law, which reads that education, respecting the Christian system of values is based on universal principles of ethics.

Sejm Accepts 1990 Mazowiecki Government Budget

LD2208234891 Warsaw PAP in English 1617 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 22—The lower house of the Polish Parliament (Sejm) gave a vote of acceptance for the 1990 budget of the government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki with 143 votes for, 60 votes against and 102 abstentions. The vote of non-acceptance was earlier rejected with 157 votes against, 66 votes for and 81 abstentions.

Bielecki Recalls Deputy Finance Minister Sawicki

LD2508031391 Warsaw PAP in English 1835 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 23—Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki recalled Janusz Sawicki, on the latter's request, from the post of deputy finance minister and government plenipotentiary for foreign debt the government press office announced on Friday. Sawicki was Poland's chief negotiator in talks with the Paris and London Clubs on the reduction of Polish debt.

Labor Minister Interviewed on Social Despondency

AU2308194791 Gdansk TYGODNIK GDANSKI in Polish 18 Aug 91 p 3

[Interview with Michal Boni, minister of labor and social policy, by Izabella Greczaniak-Filipp; place and date not given: "If It Comes to the Crunch..."]

[Excerpts] [Greczanik-Filipp] The current opinion is that life is becoming more and more difficult, and poverty is embracing an increasingly greater part of society. Do you agree?

[Boni] It all depends on what you mean by poverty. Is a family of four with a monthly income of 2.4 million zlotys living in poverty? Can one say that an unemployed person, drawing unemployment benefits that are below the poverty line is poor if he has extensive opportunities to moonlight?

Apart from that, one cannot base poverty solely on statistics on the subject of earnings and social benefits. One must also consider such factors as the number of children in the family, the type of accommodation, and the area in question, for living costs vary from one area to another. We do not carry out such analyses and are unable to establish the exact size of household incomes, so we do not know the real extent of poverty.

However, I agree that real incomes have fallen over the past two years. In the first quarter of this year, the purchasing power of earnings fell 15 percent in relation to the final quarter of last year. That, unfortunately, is the price we pay for transforming the system. Do we have to pay it? Yes, because it would be suicidal to give up the reforms. What we can do is correct our mistakes, seek better solutions, and provide better protection for economically weak people along this road that is full of sacrifices. That is what we are doing. It is generally maintained that social matters are alien to the present government of liberals. That is not true. The liberals are, in fact, sensitive to social matters, probably because they originated in "Solidarity." We are trying to adapt needs to possibilities. Unfortunately, the economic and financial situation is so bad that we cannot solve certain problems. That is our common drama, but it is not our fault. [passage omitted]

[Greczanik-Filipp] What is your view of the situation in Poland, and what is your forecast for the near future?

[Boni] I think that society is enormously patient despite all the difficulties, the collapse of real incomes, and the feeling of no hope for the future. Perhaps we, as a government, do not know how to discuss the future. Will things continue this way? A lot depends on party and trade union leaders and the way in which they wage the election campaign. People are tired and oppressed, and they need more hope. If instead of hope they get destruction, in an all-out struggle where everyone fights everyone else and with populist slogans, they might decide not to take it any more. A very tough half-year lies ahead, perhaps even one year, but behind us there is no precipice, and things are proceeding in the right direction. We have only one rational way out—to continue along this road. However, if social unrest does erupt, which cannot be ruled out, then this will be like a cold shower. After that, we might develop a greater feeling of solidarity and unity that we need very much, qualities we have lost somewhere along the way.

Social Security Agency Head Resigns

LD2508023391 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Wojciech (Topinski), chairman of the Social Security Agency [ZUS], has tendered his resignation. He does not want to bear responsibility for something that he has no influence over.

The matter relates to six million people; pensions and annuities are life's blood for every sixth Pole. Let us recall that in April of this year, pensions were received by over 2.7 million people, invalid pensions by almost 2.3 million, family annuities by around 1 million. The Social Insurance Fund is created by the current contributions of workers. Not only does it not have any reserves, but it is also already running a deficit. So as to maintain obligations to pensioners, it is already subsidized by the state budget. Last year, this came to almost 15 percent of the pensions fund. The first delays in paying benefits took place on 10 July this year. There is a shortage of six billion zloties to reach the end of the year.

[Begin recording] [Topinski] I know the sum precisely and the situations that will arise in November and December. I know that things will be ever more difficult. I know that these days will have to be extended. I cannot, knowing that I know all of this, look people in the eye and say that it is I who is the chairman, who is pleased with himself, and everything is carrying on and everything is in order [words indistinct] that there took place such actions, that today, looking back, I, thus, evaluate them; that if they took place, we would have other possibilities of counteracting the payments crisis in ZUS that is now ensuing.

[Unidentified correspondent] Well, quite. ZUS is insolvent, a sort of sinking ship. Is this not an escape from a sinking ship?

[Topinski] No, because I did everything for my ship not to sink. This ship is in an appalling situation, quite simply on account of the (?waivers) that took place from the start of the year. I very much value and respect Minister Boni. On the other hand, in the sense of my public responsibility, I feel that, quite simply—such is my conviction—that is why I am resigning. He has not fulfilled the obligations of a labor minister. [end recording]

Government Statement Welcomes Baltic Independence

AU2608140891 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Romania's government welcomes the proclamation of the state independence of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Estonia—legitimate acts that express the aspirations for freedom, national dignity, and democracy of the peoples in the three countries. The regaining of independence by Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia is an act to right the historic injustice done to them through the annexation of the three states by the Soviet Union in 1940, as a result of the secret understandings in the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact.

Romania had friendly ties with these countries in the period between the two world wars and maintained diplomatic relations with them until they were incorporated into the USSR. Resuming these traditions, the Romanian Government declares its readiness to resume diplomatic ties and develop friendly relations of cooperation with the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Estonia.

After the adoption of this statement, Mr. Traian Chebeleu, ambassador at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exclusively told our radio station the following:

[Begin Chebeleu recording] After the adoption of the government's statement today, our country's foreign minister, Mr. Adrian Nastase, sent messages to the foreign ministers of the three Baltic Republics, informing them of this statement of our government. On this occasion, the minister congratulates the governments and peoples of the three countries in connection with the historic decision of their independence proclamation, recalls the relations that existed between Romania and the respective countries in the period between the two world wars, and expresses the Romanian Government's readiness to resume diplomatic relations with these countries and exchange ambassadors with these countries in the not too distant future. Likewise, he expressed the Romanian Government's desire that close relations of friendship and cooperation should develop between Romania and the Baltic countries.

I would like to add that we intend to circulate this important statement of our government at the United Nations as an official document of the General Assembly. [end Chebeleu recording]

Civic Parties' Conference Issues Declaration

AU2508192891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1823 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/8/1991—The failure of the coup in the Soviet Union following, above all, the firm reaction of the civil population and of the non-communist political forces means the end of communism as a system, underscores the declaration and call of the first national conference of the Civic Alliance and the Civic Alliance Party that ended in Bucharest on Sunday, 25 August.

According to the above-mentioned document, the current situation in Romania shows worrisome similitude to the one which engendered the coup attempt in the USSR. Most of the totalitarian communist structures have survived and continue to be active in all the economic, social and all the other spheres, the document also says assessing that, by encouraging the communist-type demagogy, populism, reforming inconsistency and corruption on the entire societal scale, the present power in Romania is responsible for the social, economic and spiritual chaos in the country.

In order that Romania should avoid a tragical situation similar to that in the Soviet Union on the days of the coup and that democracy in Romania should be guaranteed, the Civic Alliance and the Civic Alliance Party demand, among other things: Romania's president, the parliament members and all the other dignitaries at an all-country level should publicly define their stance on the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] and its role along Romania's history; a parliamentary investigation or an investigation through the agency of a special body should be made of the activity carried out till December 1989 by the former members of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, the county committees and the government with a view to establishing the moral prejudices and the economic damage produced, just as the ones responsible for it and their judgment according to laws; forbidding of extremist parties (RCP, Socialist Labor Party, Romania Mare Party) and their members' dismissal from power structures and undertaking of legal measures against extremist, irredentist, antisemitic publications that incite to social and national hatred, urgent creation of parliamentary commissions that should investigate the activity after 1948 of the following institutions: the Securitate, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Radio and Television, so as to establish the ones responsible for the prejudices brought to the country and punish them; the restoration of the truth and of the ones responsible for the events in Romania in December 1989, March 1990 (Tirgu Mures), June 1990 (Bucharest), their identification and punishment; the urgent adoption of a constitution apt to provide an appropriate legislative basis to promote all democratic laws; the public presentation by the government of Romania's 1990 budget and the way in which it was used; reconsideration of Romania's foreign policy so as to serve the country's major and perennial interests; parliament's adoption of an unequivocal position in support of the legitimate aspirations after sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Moldova and the occupied territories and their backing by all means in all international fora; government's promotion of the idea of national and cultural identity of Romania everywhere as well as their interests worldwide.

The Civic Alliance and the Civic Alliance Party, the document shows in conclusion, call on all the democratic

political forces, the trade unions and all the citizens of this country to support the present declaration and call that is apt to pave the way for a genuine national dialogue. They solemnly call on all the democratic governments across the world and the international bodies to back Romania's endeavors for a way out of this state of crisis and isolation.

Roman on 'Highly Important' Government Decisions

AU2308173191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1614 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 23/8/1991—At the end of the Friday government's meeting, Premier Petre Roman stated to the press that several highly important decisions were made in reference to both social and economic aspects. A package of decisions referred to energy projects and the programme for the ensurance of energy in winter. Correlated with the great difficulties facing Romania today in the foreign payment balance, the programme has still an emergency and priority character, Mr. Petre Roman stated.

Reference was also made to the perspective of utilizing the country's hard-currency resources, a highly delicate question, assessed Mr. Petre Roman, the resolution of which presupposes international financial support through credits in various forms so that we can stimulate the introduction of resources into the economy and, consequently, the functioning of enterprises especially in key industries.

The survey we made evinced that economic activities as a whole are not satisfactory at all. We can say we seriously suffer from low productivity. Many sectors, many enterprises could work better by more judiciously using the human potential, therefore the highly skilled personnel, he said.

I am sure it is high time for all the management boards in enterprises, the state administration boards, the managers and executives of enterprises to more firmly assume responsibility for the fate of enterprises because there are certain possibilities. They should no longer wait for government's regulations, incentives or decisions.

Mr. Premier Petre Roman also announced that in its Friday session the government passed a resolution on the indexation of salaries, pensions and other incomes to be given either from the state budget or as wages from commercial companies, public corporations, a.o. Indexation means to cover part of the prise rise, the premier specified, so that the suffering produced by soaring costs be much more diminished. This suffering could be completely eliminated concurrently with economic recovery, with the dynamization of economic life, with a genuine beginning of such a recovery, the premier assessed.

The prime minister also stated that the decision, was made that in about a month the government should own a strategy for the new economic development guidelines. Today, he said, a decision was endorsed regarding schooling, re-training and the reorientation of the jobless. It is clear that the changes in our economy are so big and so drastic that it would have been impossible to avoid hardships and even blockage, the head of the executive underscored. Nevertheless, in a not too distant future a real prosperity is in store for us all, for those willing to harness themselves, he said.

We must have in view that we know and can produce both well and in abreast of the world market demands. We should not forget that this people managed however to be the only one that paid back tens of billion dollar debts in a short time. This has stand proof of our ability to work and, on this matter, nobody can say any offending word, on the contrary one should have only praiseworthy words in this respect, the head of the executive also stated. [sentence as received] But we should do so now as well, not because we have debts to pay off since we do not have them. We want to create the resources the country needs to embark on the economic road with a greater impetus. Now it is the time for all citizens to show solidarity in favour of economic recovery.

In its session today, the Cabinet also settled the question of financial blockage as the National Bank of Romania started easing it through well-defined norms. This calls for the state to make quite a substantial crediting effort.

Coposu Answers Constanta Residents' Questions

AU2408142891 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 16 Aug 91 p 1

[Dumitru Nicodim report on answers by Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, to citizens' questions at a meeting in Constanta on 10 August—"Our Position!..."]

[Text] During the meeting of the delegation of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd] with residents of Constanta Municipality, PNT-cd President Coposu answered various questions put to him. We are reporting on a few of his answers:

1. Taking into consideration all the information I have, and all the assurances that we have been given, I affirm with the greatest conviction that Europe was not divided again into spheres of influence at Malta. Discussions held there focused almost exclusively on possibilities to revitalize the Soviet economy.

2. Romania and the other countries that entered the communist sphere of influence were bartered in Yalta like goods in a market, and the 45 years of communism suffered by these countries are the result of the "understanding" reached by Western countries and the USSR.

3. Referring to the land law: the PNT-cd, in accordance with its own concept and the draft law, decided to return

the land to the former owners and worked out possibilities to correct mistakes in due time. Our protests against the provisions of the law were not taken into consideration, and our parliamentarians unanimously voted against this law.

4. In connection with the return of nationalized real estate: Decree 83/1949 will no doubt be abrogated. The return of all urban real estate confiscated by the communist state is a fundamental principle of which our party will not lose sight. We cannot consider ourselves a state of law if we do not correct all the injustice committed under the communist regime.

5. Whether we have ideal conditions for elections? As long as the FSN has a television service that lies and misinforms the public, we cannot say that we have ideal conditions for elections.

6. Whether we have valuable candidates? I believe that all those who joined the ruling party and the other parties that are manipulated by it are 100 times less valuable than those people who showed integrity by refusing to side with neocommunism. I believe that we have many valuable people, honest people with great authority, who enjoy the trust of our peasantry, the trust of those who are interested in electing valuable people at the head of the administration. These people represent us, and we can win the elections with them.

7. What can we do to prevent another corruption of the elections, such as what happened in May 1990? I see here many acquaintances and friends who remember the 1946 elections. I ask the young people of today to ask those people to tell them what happened in 1946. In spite of the Soviet occupation, we had our people in every voting center, and those people decided not to leave until the official report on the result of the votes was concluded. In those places where our delegates kept their word, the elections were not falsified. You must not be afraid from threats and pressure that will be put on you. Do not let yourselves be intimidated. They terrorize cowards.

8. How do we view the people's referendum about Romania's form of constitution? By no means under the leadership of the current government! We believe that Romania's population must be consulted only after they become familiar with our true national history.

9. How does the PNT-cd hope to support the peasantry to obtain agricultural equipment? In February 1990, our party made great efforts to get in touch with specialized institutions to obtain that equipment, proposing to carry out payment through long-term credits or in exchange for agricultural products. The government did not accept payment in agricultural products. We will seek other solutions as well, and we hope that we will succeed in establishing a favorable accord in this respect because the government is not interested in supporting the new landowners.

10. What is the "New Justice?" A group of "ambitious people," not to call them by another name, decided to set up a party. Stimulated and supported by the FSN, they launched a campaign that the government had already been carrying out for a whole year. So, another group has been added to those who are slandering us. The readers can imagine the goals of this new party. If we are being discredited by one of them, it does not disturb us, because we have been "discredited" for 45 years.

Traditional, National Democratic Parties Merge

AU2308174891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1639 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 23/8/1991—The leaderships of the Traditional Social Democratic Party (PSDT) and the National Democratic party have announced their merger into a party of social-democratic leaning.

The merger, shows the communique issued by the newly formed party, was possible due to the similitude of the theoretical and practical concepts underlying the two political platforms.

The new organisation, called the Traditional Social Democratic Party of Romania, will have Lucian Cornescu as president and Serghei Mesaros, member of the lower chamber, as Vice President.

This is the first fusion of two parties represented in Parliament.

Federal

Markovic Cables Support to Gorbachev

LD2308170691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0933 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 23 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic has cabled a message of support to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The telegram expresses confidence that the traditionally good Yugoslav-Soviet relations will be further advanced in all domains, under conditions of major changes taking place in both countries.

Prime Minister Markovic has sent another telegram of similar content to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mesic Message Greets Gorbachev on Return

LD2408023491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0203 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 23 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Presidency President Stjepan Mesic today sent a message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev expressing, on behalf of the Presidency of Yugoslavia and in his own name, sincere satisfaction that Gorbachev has returned to the helm of the USSR.

"It is a great victory of the people and all democratic forces in the USSR in the further affirmation of the policy of perestroika, which you have initiated and which has enabled significant progress, opened prospects for an all-round development of your country, and made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement and democratization of international relations," the message states.

Mesic expressed "a firm conviction that the friendly Yugoslav-Soviet relations and comprehensive cooperation will successfully develop in the interest of our peoples and countries, peace and stability in the world."

Presidency Session Statement on Proceedings

LD2308215691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2035 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Aug (Tanjug)—An SFRY Presidency session, chaired by President Stipe Mesic, was held in Belgrade today. It was attended by Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic; Slovene President Milan Kucan; Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs Petar Gracanin; chief of the general staff of the SFRY armed forces, Blagoje Adzic; deputy federal secretary for national defense, Stane Brovet; and Croatian Deputy Premier Milan Ramljak.

A statement from the session further reads:

The SFRY Presidency examined a report by the Cease-Fire Commission, the position of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] and the All-People's Defense during the moratorium and the transitional period, and within this framework, examined the position and role of the YPA in the clashes in Croatia and the pending issues concerning the YPA withdrawal from Slovenia and [words indistinct]. The Presidency also examined a report on the illegal import of arms and army equipment.

Branko Kostic, chairman of the Cease-Fire Commission, briefed the SFRY Presidency on developments in hotbeds of crisis, and conveyed the Commission's assessment that the clashes have been escalating and the warring sides have not been observing the guarantees they had given by accepting the decision of the SFRY Presidency on a cease-fire in the Republic of Croatia. The Presidency decided to continue the debate on this issue once it received the Commission's written report.

As for some of the pending issues concerning the YPA withdrawal from Slovenia referred to in the Slovene Presidency's letter to the SFRY Presidency, it was agreed not to alter the decision of the SFRY Presidency, and that these issues should be resolved through direct contacts and talks between the Federal Secretariat for National Defense and representatives of the Republic of Slovenia.

The SFRY Presidency also examined problems concerning the YPA recruitment, and within this context the reasons and implications of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense order that soldiers whose military term expires in September should be retained for another 20 days for military exercises.

The SFRY Presidency stated that this decision is under the competence of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense, and by a majority of votes it took into consideration the reasons for adopting it. The SFRY Presidency session confirmed that all soldiers due to end their military service in September, in keeping with the order of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense, would be sent home at the end of this period.

It was also stated that soldiers, who at the time they started their military service had completed secondary school and were intending to register at a university in the 1991-92 academic year, will be released from their military service by 2 September 1991 at the latest, provided they have completed their full military service.

The SFRY Presidency pointed out that, in the period of the moratorium and the transitional period, conditions must be ensured for the normal function of the system of defense, in keeping with the currently valid Constitution and Federal Law. In connection with questions of financing the YPA, the SFRY Presidency obliged the FEC: to ensure, in keeping with the agreement on the functioning of the country in the period of the moratorium and with its legal authority, the financing of the YPA.

A discussion was also begun on the letter of Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, which he sent the SFRY Presidency on 22 August this year. Two members of the SFRY Presidency accepted the allegations set out in the letter, two members demanded that the allegations be examined and the facts established within the time-frame set out in the letter, while three members of the SFRY Presidency did not accept the content of the letter.

The SFRY Presidency assessed that, as well as the measures in the country designed to prevent the illegal import of arms and to disband illegal armed formations, the international public, especially neighboring countries, the CSCE and the EC, should be acquainted with and warned about the illegal import of arms and be requested to contribute to stopping the accumulation of armaments in the country.

Mesic on Resignation Conditions, Moves on Slovenia

LD2408164891 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Interview with Presidency President Stipe Mesic by correspondent Hajnal Mate; place and date not given; Mesic speaks in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Mate] Mr. President, you recently said you would resign from your presidential post if the cease-fire is not observed. Do you maintain this promise?

[Mesic] Unfortunately, my taking office legalized the use of force in Yugoslavia against my will. I feel that this position has become incompatible with my conscience. I have concluded that, if a political solution to the Yugoslav crisis is not achieved and a solution acceptable to all is not found, then I must leave this position.

[Mate] Is it not rather a case of the president wishing to avoid Gorbachev's fate?

[Mesic] Everything that happened in the USSR was an anticonstitutional action of the extremist forces, aimed exclusively at seizing power. If similar forces come to power in Yugoslavia, anything is possible.

[Mate] In my view, the methods used by the present government in Belgrade are similar to the extremist Soviet manifestations. What is your opinion on this?

[Mesic] Well, yes, I agree with this. There are certain ambitious circles in Belgrade which would like to bring about a greater Serbia and use all means to this end. It is no secret today either that they support terrorism and the activity of extremist groups.

[Mate] When you, a Croat, came to power as the next presidential candidate in line, you promised that you wished to create an independent Croatia on the basis of the Federal Constitution. However, this Constitution was violated a long time ago, for example when they disregarded the rights of Kosovo and Vojvodina.

[Mesic] I was thinking of the general stipulations of the Constitution, and I did not deny either that this Constitution had been violated several times. Here, it is a question of having to find the legal frameworks of a new setup, taking the realities into account. I imagine this to be something like the EC.

[Mate] So, Mr. President, you consider it conceivable that Yugoslavia split into independent states? On whose command then did the Army go into Slovenia, for you are the supreme commander of the Army, are you not?

[Mesic] We ourselves do not yet know who gave this order. The presidential council did not decide on this. The Federal Council decided on customs supervision, for which, however, there was no need to bring in the tanks. Investigations are under way on this matter, and, naturally, the guilty parties will be brought to account.

[Mate] Is it impossible that the Presidency has lost its supervision over the Federal Army?

[Mesic] As I said, the Presidency did not decide on this, so it could not even supervise events. It is a question here again of the interests of those circles fighting to create a greater Serbia, being that Slovenia should leave the federation, for in practice there are no Serbs living in Slovenia; thus, they cannot have any territorial claims here either. Obviously, it is the Slovenes themselves who are urging this most of all. There is nothing left but to take cognizance of this and find a solution which is acceptable to the other republics and which can achieve international recognition.

Markovic Interviewed on Situation

LD2408134891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0918 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Split, 24 Aug (TANJUG)—"Of the seven principles that we proposed in the agreement, the Presidency has adopted the principle of the inviolability of external and internal borders, has agreed on the exclusion of the use of force in the solution of mutual conflicts, the consistant observance of the right of nations to self-determination to the point of secession, the consistent respect for the principles of the equality and sovereignty of republics, but not as states as we proposed." This was stated in an interview to the Split daily 'SLOBODNA DALMACIJA' by FEC Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic. The main topic of the interview was the functioning of the country during the three-month moratorium and the stands of the federal government on the future agreement on the organization of Yugoslavia.

According to Ante Markovic, the basic condition for reaching agreement is the achievement of peace. This would, according to him "buy time and the conditions for reaching agreement on the future of the country,

regardless of whether its individual parts remain in the framework of some consensual relationship or not, or whether all agree to separate or to remain together under certain conditions. This requires time, and also a certain legality under which the process of achieving agreement will take place".

The consent of the federal Presidency to the majority of the principles which the FEC has proposed, means for Prime Minister Markovic that the "internal and external factors are now coming together, a critical basis is being created which could make it possible to shortly achieve the three aims we are talking about as a short-term strategy—establishing peace, ensuring the functioning of the system on some minimum basis in the period of the moratorium of 90 days, and the start of talks and agreement on the future of the country".

For Markovic the solution lies in "some alliance of republics as states with certain joint functions, such as will truly represent the interests of each individually". Markovic sees the beginnings of the creation of such a community in the fact that two republics have already adopted a decision on their independence [osamostaljenje], and the citizens of Macedonia and Bosni- Hercegovina are shortly to go to a referendum. Following these plebiscites, the Prime Minister says, "we will probably have a situation in which four republics have decided on their independence, but at the same time some of them are prepared to discuss their re-integration in those sectors which are agreed to be essential to all".

In the interview Ante Markovic expresses his belief that all republics, if they wish to emerge from the total crisis in which they find themselves, must go back to the course of comprehensive reforms. The condition for a way out of the crisis is, for the prime minister, an agreement that during the period of the moratorium "a minimum legal system, state system, economic system, and the functioning of the institutions representing that system" should be established. The characteristics of the present state of legal anarchy are for Markovic the usurpation of property, looting, interruption of transportation, insecurity of citizens, the breakdown of the payments and monetary systems, the fragmentation of the market and the failure to function of even the state system. All this, Markovic says, could lead to a doubling of the number of unemployed which at present amounts to 1.6 million people, which in the autumn could result in great economic and social problems which would destroy all good intentions with regard to the future.

Nevertheless, Markovic says, the Federal government is succeeding in keeping matters at least partially under control. Thus, according to Markovic, in the past few months there have even been certain positive elements. "Inflation in the past month was 5.8 percent, and it is estimated that it will now be somewhere between eight and nine percent. There are certain tendencies which are reducing the pace of the fall in production, and exports have shown an excellent growth in the recent period".

However, Markovic feels that without international support we cannot emerge from the crisis. The government is receiving signals, the prime minister says, "that for fresh talks with the international community only two things are necessary—a cease-fire, that is the reestablishment of the system, and the start of talks on the future of the country". The fulfillment of these conditions would, Markovic says, lead to the involvement of the EC in economic support and "would help us with the rescheduling of debts with the Paris Club and would make available to us a new credit arrangement of $2 billion on the European capital market". International financial and professional institutions, the FEC president told the 'SLOBODNA DALMACIJA' reporter, "have also proposed that we should jointly re-examine and re-define our macroeconomic policy in accordance with the new conditions with which we are faced. However, if we do not halt the conflict, we are unlikely to have the credibility for what we are seeking. That is why the FEC is calling for not simply a truce to be established, but actual peace."

Thus, Prime Minister Markovic says, "the FEC considers that deadlines are already expiring, agreement and tolerance must be entered into immediately, the violence must be stopped, and problems tackled with full readiness for compromise, with no hesitation".

Speaking about the activities of the FEC during this period, the prime minister says that important work is being carried out in the area of assistance to refugees, attempts are being made to regulate the situation in the threatened regions of the country in the sphere of health, work relations, pensions and disability payments, and veterans allowances. According to Markovic, recovery measures are being taken as well in transportation, agriculture and the energy system, as well as in payment operations and the financial sphere. "Next week we are organizing a meeting with the presidents of all the republican governments in order to establish the elementary functions of the system," FEC President Ante Markovic said at the end of his interview with 'SLOBODAN DALMACIJA'.

Foreign Currency Growth Measures Reported

LD2508124991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1113 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 25 (TANJUG)—As of next September, foreign currency saving in Yugoslavia will be additionally stimulated by special measures currently prepared by the government of Prime Minister Ante Markovic, the government's press office said on Sunday.

Foreign currency savers will be granted dinar loans for buying socially-owned apartments, investments in small-scale economy, and purchase of equipment and business facilities.

All savers will be entitled to these and other concessions irrespective of when they have made their foreign currency deposits.

A large part of the capital would be used for increasing production, stimulating enterpreneurship and reviving the overall flow of capital and goods in the country.

At present, foreign currency deposits are practically blocked in banks under a Federal Government decision and their owners can draw them in dinar equivalents.

Commercial banks in the Yugoslav republics recently introduced measures for stimulating the purchase of forreign currency by granting up to 70 percent higher exchange rates than the official.

Cease-Fire Control Commission Member Resigns

LD2608103191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0917 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Sarajevo, 26 Aug (TANJUG)—Vice President of the SFRY Assembly Irfan Ajancvic today tendered his written resignation from membership in the Cease-Fire Control Commission, and dispatched it to the SFRY Presidency.

"Regarding the fact that the SFRY Presidency's decision on an unconditional and absolute cease-fire in Croatia's crisis areas is impossible to implement as long as the present definition of the warring parties and the present role and position of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army in the flashpoints of war is in effect, I wonder about the fact that I was entrusted with membership in 'the state commission' for controlling the cease-fire on the territory of the Republic of Croatia" - -Ajanovic writes.

"In the course of my 20-day participation in the work of the commission," Ajanovic says, "I have carried out all the obligations I had assumed, with no effort and time spared, as I wanted to contribute conscientiously and objectively to the establishment of the cease-fire."

"No Yugoslav commission will be able to achieve this without the warring parties' political will, something that should be clearly and unambigously defined by the Yugoslav Presidency," Irfan Ajanovic stressed in his resignation.

Croatia

Tudjman Asks Kohl, Genscher for Protection

LD2308232791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2005 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Zagreb, Aug 23 (TANJUG)—President of Croatia Dr Franjo Tudjman has sent messages to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, seeking their protection for this Yugoslav reublic.

In his message to Kohl, Tudjman says he has been compelled to make this move because "the truce decision is not at all observed in Croatia," and even "a war against Croatia has been spreading." In his message, Tudjman forecasts a further aggravation of the situation.

The president of Croatia asks the German Federal chancellor "to think about the modalities that the European Community, particularly Germany, may undertake to the end of protecting the Republic of Croatia, the independence of which is being prevented with all means, and the very survival of which is being imperilled." A message of similar contents has been sent by Tudjman also to Genscher.

To his messages, Tudjman attached also a letter he sent a day earlier to the Yugoslav State Presidency in which it is said, among other things, that "an end be put to the occupation of Croatian territories" by the Yugoslav People's Army.

Tudjman Meets With Croatian Military Leaders

LD2408230191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman held a working meeting with commanders and officers of the National Guard and the Ministry for Internal Affairs in Banski Dvori. The meeting considered the political situation following President Tudjman's letter to the SFRY Presidency, as well as measures that are necessary to undertake in order to achieve the full readiness of the Croatian armed forces.

Refugee Figures 'Almost Doubled' Since 7 Aug

LD2508041191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1604 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 24 (TANJUG)—First several thousand refugees are expected to return to Croatia as soon as next week, as president of the Insitute of Serbs and Serbian Emigration, writer Brana Crncevic told TANJUG today.

The number of the refugees from the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia has almost doubled since August 7, when a ceasefire in the Republic was proclaimed, as Crncevic said.

Armed clashes between the Croatian authorities and Serbian civilians who feel deprived of their rights continue in Croatia despite a Yugoslav state Presidency decision that an unconditional ceasefire should be established in the Republic.

Crncevic said the Serbian Red Cross' figure of around 71,000 refugees might be augmented by a number of non-registered refugees to a total of 80,000.

The Serbian refugees from Croatia are also being assisted by Serbs in emigration, as Crncevic underscored.

Serbian minister for relations with Serbs outside Serbia Stanko Cvijan today said aid was necessary for Serbs in Croatia and for those leaving their centuries-old homes, but, as he said, it must be well organized and supervised so that possible speculations could be averted.

After he visited a refugee centre in Vajska (province of Vojvodina), Cvijan said that the number of refugees had been on rise also from other than crisis regions in Croatia, such as the cities of Zagreb and Rijeka.

The position of Serbs in the "inland" parts of Croatia is specific, Cvijan said and added that they felt insecure or at least less secure than the Serbs in the ethnic-Serbian regions.

Around 250 families, or 685 people have so far fled the Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia to the Republic of Montenegro, according to the Montenegrin Red Cross.

Daily Claims 800 Machine Guns Unloaded at Rijeka

LD2408162291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1507 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 24 (TANJUG)—Belgrade daily POLITIKA writes today that two ships in the northern Adriatic port of Rijeka, Croatia, have illegally unloaded at least 800 machineguns from Lebanon for the needs of this Yugoslav republic.

POLITIKA writes that S.S. Urania and Concordia, owned by a Cypriot shipper from Larnaca, had sailed into the Adriatic on June 7 together with seven more ships carrying arms.

The seven ships were destined to the southern yugoslav port of bar, as POLITIKA asserts, with a cargo of arms from the Middle East sufficient to arm 100,000 men.

POLITIKA adds that the bulk of arms were unloaded and warehoused in Bar. The port offices assert they have obtained the required certificates from the federal authorities, while the federal government denies the assertion.

Politika reports that on orders by the government of Montenegro, in the territory of which the port of Bar is situated, the Bar investigation judge has examined the whole case but results of his investigation have not been made public as yet.

The chief manager in this sale-purchase, as POLITIKA writes, is Count Peter Janei from Switzerland. Included in the deal also are several Yugoslavs and four ranking officials of the Christian militia in Lebanon who, as the Belgrade paper claims, had stayed illegally in Yugoslavia.

Defense Minister Threatens 'General Mobilization'

LD2408130191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1112 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Zagreb, 24 Aug (TANJUG)—"We have submitted to the Federal Presidency written demands to which they should reply by 31 August. If the demands—which are legitimate and whose purpose is the defense of the Republic of Croatia—are not met we shall proclaim general mobilization and call on the entire Croatian nation at home and abroad to come forward to the defense of the Republic of Croatia."

The above statement was made by the Croatian minister of defense, Luka Bebic, speaking at today's founding assembly of the Croatian officers' association.

Addressing the participants of this meeting, Luka Bebic said, among other things, that Croatia recently adopted the technology of manufacturing various types of armament, "from light weaponry, explosive devices, mortars—three calibers so far—to hand grenades and other weapons. Some are even being mass produced by now."

In his words, the Croatian nation will be ready to face the attacks, despite the great advantage of the "so-called Yugoslav Army", especially in view of technology. We know, says Luka Bebic, "that the morale of the Army is very low, but the Army has steel, aircraft, tanks, and cannons. But someone has to operate these cannons and aircraft and whatever they take possession of they must not believe that it is for good. The Croatian nation will never allow any occupation on its territory. The occupation can only be a temporary, never a permanent one," stressed Bebic.

In the words of Luka Bebic, from now on Croatia will be applying the tactics of "active defense".

Territorial defense was being mentioned as something that is banned, said Bebic stressing that this was not true, but that "it only looked as if it were neglected because it was disarmed, while we consider it counterproductive to mobilize people without there being any possibility of giving them anything." However, when such a possibility arises, which will be very soon, we shall form, and we are already forming, territorial defense units which, together with the [National] Guard and police formations, "will make up a Croatian armed forces led by the president of the republic in the capacity of supreme commander. A main Croatian center is also being set up which will command all armed formations," said Luka Bebic.

We have decided to "no longer passively retreat but to counter terrorist attacks with all available means. And if the so-called Yugoslav Army were to attack us we will counter this attack with all available means," said Luka Bebic in conclusion.

A proposal was put forward at the assembly of the officers' association to ban the activities of both the

reserve officers and the SUBNOR [Federation of Associations of National Liberation War Veterans]. Another proposal was to exempt the officers of the Croatian armed forces from all obligations in the YPA [Yugoslav People's Army] and fix their war schedule within the Croatian armed forces, instead of the units and headquarters of the YPA, as is the case with most of them so far.

Federal Defense Secretariat Reply to Tudjman Letter

LD2408201591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1754 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Aug (TANJUG)—The Federal Secretariat for National Defense today issued a statement in connection with a letter sent by Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, to the SFRY Presidency almost a month and a half ago. In the letter, Tudjman demanded that General Blagoje Adzic [chief of the SFRY Armed Forces General Staff] and General Zivota Avramovic [commander of the Fifth Military District] be dismissed. Here is the text of the statement by the Federal Secretariat for National Defense:

"In connection with a letter from the president of the Republic of Croatia sent on 16 July 1991, which the deputy secretary of the SFRY Presidency forwarded to us a month and a half after it was sent, that is, on August 21, asking us to report about whether allegations in the letter were true and about the stand of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense on proposals put forward in the letter, we point out the following:

1. On no occasion did Colonel-Generals Blagoje Adzic and Zivota Avramovic advocate stands attributed to them in the letter from the president of the Republic of Croatia. These are totally unfounded and arbitrary constructions from allegedly "reliable" sources and newspapers, which are constantly churning out anti-Yugoslav and anti-army propaganda.

2. Since the statements were not made by the mentioned generals, it is pointless for us to voice our views about the totally discredited demand for the dismissal of Generals Adzic and Avramovic.

3. An expression of loyalty to any republican leadership or to the Croatian authorities cannot be demanded of officers of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army [JNA]. Let us point out that the democratic public has already expressed its judgment on demands and actions of a similar character in the Republic of Croatia.

4. In view of the fact that a multitude of all kinds of lies concerning the role of the JNA and individual officers in the most responsible posts is being expressed from one moment to the next, even by people in the most responsible social posts, it would be virtually senseless to respond to every lie and accusation expressed. Hence, this will not be done even in a concrete case.

5. The Federal Secretariat for National Defense believes the SFRY Presidency should take a very clear stance vis-a-vis the widespread phenomenon of the public discrediting of the army, the false portrayal of its role in the present situation, and the increasingly frequent, completely unfounded attacks by individual organs and bearers of public office on the commanders of the JNA.

'Decisive Showdown' Expected in Vinkovci

LD2608093191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Sefik Kapetanovio, reporting for Croatian Radio from Vinkovci: The prediction that aggression will spread from the Vukovar area to the Vinkovci area is materializing by the minute. About 10 grenades that exploded in Nustar at about 0900 were followed by the first, more powerful than usual, explosions in Vinkovci's northwest sector. This is why the Crisis Headquarters is calling on all citizens to refrain from being exposed in the streets and public spaces and to seek cover in one of Vinkovci's shelters or cellars.

In Vukovar, a battle between the town's defenders and the Yugoslav Army is not abating, while the Army is using all means available to crush the town's resistance. Since yesterday, when the Army seized contol of the access road to "Vukovar from the direction of Bogdanovci, the town has almost been sealed off. We have unofficially learned that a large column of tanks is on its way from Backa to Vukova, and that a bombing raid by the Air Force, to be following by an infantry attack, is also expected. The National Guard and members of the Ministry for Internal Affairs in the Vukovar area have enough weapons, and are ready for a decisive showdown. The Yugoslav Army simply cannot comprehend that it is taking on a people who defend their homes and who have a sound motive to fight, as opposed to the Army's reservists—the vast majority of whom have to threaten Vukovar's innocent citizens with enormous military hardware against their own will.

'General Alarm' Sirens Sounded in Vukovar

LD2508230191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2236 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Vukovar, 25 Aug (TANJUG)—Around 2230, members of the Croatian National Guard Corps and the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs attacked Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] barracks in Vukovar. Machinegun and mortar fire was opened from several directions. The attack had been announced this afternoon, when the YPA units were ordered to withdraw into their barracks from the Bogdanovci-Luzac road. It has also been learned that they Army replied to the attack, not leaving the mentioned positions.

A little before midnight sirens in the town started wailing, signaling a general alarm.

Guardsman Killed in Attack on Vrlika

LD2508082291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Report from Sinj]

[Summary] The cease-fire agreed between representatives of the Sinj municipal assembly and the Knin corps command of the Yugoslav People's Army following this morning's heavy attacks by the army and terrorists on Vrlika and Kijevo was violated after just over two hours, when the terrorists opened mortar and machine-gun fire on Vrlika at 0900 this morning. One member of the Croatian National Guard was killed in the attack.

Air Force Planes Shot at During Exercise

LD2508075391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0647 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Aug (TANJUG)—On Saturday, 24 August, between 1800 and 1900, Air Force and Air Defense pilots were engaged in routine exercise flights above the territory of Eastern Slavonia. While they were flying above the Borovo region at 1825 reports the Information Service of the Air Force and Air Defense Command, strong fire was opened from the ground using high caliber anti-aircraft weapons. One aircraft was seriously damaged and the pilot was forced to eject. Owing to the fast intervention of the rescue service, he was returned to the base uninjured. The crew of the second aircraft countered the attack with machine-gun fire.

Guard Forces Reportedly Shoot Down Two Planes

LD2408191291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] We have learned that in fighting in Vukovar, forces of the [Croatian] National Guard brought down two Galeb-2 type military aircraft this afternoon, while five missiles were fired form the Osijek garrison in the direction of Bilje. The action is still going on.

Air Force Confirms Downing

LD2408222491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2140 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 24 (TANJUG)—A plane of the Yugoslav Air Force was downed on Saturday in the Republic of Croatia, near the town of Vukovar, as announced on Saturday night by the Belgrade television.

As set out in the late news, it was reported that the Croatian Interior Ministry forces and Guard downed a plane whose pilot managed to save himself.

The report has been confirmed by the command of the Yugoslav Air Force. It added that another plane fired on the attackers and returned to base.

The television report also said that the Croatian police and Guard were hastily leaving Vukovar.

Serbia

Official Accuses Mesic of 'Selling Serbia'

LD2208231191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1825 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Pristina, August 22 (TANJUG)—Vice-President of the Assembly of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Vukasin Jokanovic today accused Presidency of Yugoslavia President Stipe Mesic of high treason, and specified that Mesic was "selling Serbia."

Addressing a meeting of officials of the province of Kosovo, which is part of Serbia, in Kosovo's capital Pristina, Jokanovic said that Mesic's statements made it clear that he had "placed himself in the service of Albanian separatists."

Jokanovic said that Mesic was "inciting" ethnic Albanians in Kosovo "to riots" in order "to make easier the position in which Croatia finds itself in clashes with its citizens of Serbian nationality."

Mesic, Presidency of Yugoslavia president who represents the Republic of Croatia in the collective state leadership, had stated in an interview published in the Albanian-language newspaper SHKEDIJA on August 19 that "(ethnic) Albanians, since they have already proclaimed the Republic of Kosovo, should as soon as possible elect a government and president of the republic."

The Province of Kosovo was illegally proclaimed a republic by ethnic Albanians last year. The Republic of Serbia, of which the province is a part, has not recognized that act of secession. It dissolved the provincial Kosovo Assembly and Government last year and took over the administration of the province.

"The unheard-of absurdity that the so-called president of a state does everything to break up that same state will be recorded in history," Jokanovic [word indistinct].

Addressing the press today, the Vice-President of the Assembly of Serbia accused Ramiz Alia, president of neighbouring Albania, of "openly interfering in the internal affairs" of Yugoslavia.

Tirana Radio had reported on August 18, Sunday, that Alia had received a "delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo," headed by Ilijaz Ramajli, vice-president of the non-existent "Republic of Kosovo."

During the meeting, Alia lent support to the ethnic Albanians in Serbia's province of Kosovo and "their efforts to form a Kosovo government."

"We advise Ramiz Alia, just as Europe has, to cease interfering in the internal affairs of Serbia and Yugoslavia and to turn to the difficult economic and social problems in his country," Jokanovic said.

Slavonian Decree Prepares Mobilization

LD2308182391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1649 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Summary] Dalj, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—Everyone from Osijek, Vinkovci, and Vukovar municipalities aged 18-60 who are currently residing on the territory of the republic of Serbia will return to their original places of residence within eight days and be (?prepared) for mobilization, it is stated in today's decree on general mobilization, signed by Goran Hadzic, prime minister of the Serbian autonomous region of Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem. Legal measures will be taken against those who fail to obey the mobilization orders.

Kosutic Discusses Serbo-Croatian Territory Issue

LD2308193891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1413 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Titograd, August 23 (TANJUG)—Deputy Prime Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Budimir Kosutic has stated that, "if it is no longer possible to construct Yugoslavia as a democratic state of all nations," it would be best if the Slovenes and Croats were "peacefully" to break away with "the territories which are theirs."

In an interview published today in the daily POBJEDA of Titograd, Republic of Montenegro, Kosutic categorically insisted that "the territories predominantly populated by Serbs naturally could not go with Croatia."

The refusal of the Serbs living in Croatia to be separated from Yugoslavia, as part of a sovereign and independent republic of Croatia, has been the chief cause of the months-long inter-ethnic clashes in Croatia.

Supporting the idea according to which Slavonija—the stage of fiercest clashes between armed Serbs and the Croatian police and national guard—absolutely cannot be a part of Croatia, Kosutic said that Serbs bought the land from Austro-Hungary when they came to that region.

Belgrade Radio, Television Officials Resign

LD2208234591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1423 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Belgrade, August 22 (TANJUG)—The Belgrade daily BORBA today writes that several close associates of the recently replaced chiefs of Belgrade Radio and Television (RTB) have resigned in solidarity with the former directors.

The re-shuffle in RTB was carried out by the government of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia under a law on the media, adopted late last month. Under the law, the Government appoints the directors of state-owned media.

Former Belgrade radio director Nikola Mirkov told BORBA that he had been replaced after 18 months of good work which, as the Serbian parliament assessed, "saved the honour of Serbian journalism".

The former editor-in-chief of Belgrade radio first programme, Rade Veljanovski, said that public opinion polls showed that listeners came to trust Belgrade radio programmes in the past year and a half.

"Since there was no official explanation, I interpreted the replacement as mistrust and suspicion in what we have been doing so far ...", Veljanovski said.

On the replacements in RTB, Serbian Vice-Premier Budimir Kosutic said that "in a number of developed countries the government appoints the directors of public or state TV-channels".

"The one who wins the elections gets this right", Kosutic told reporters, as the BELGRADE daily POLITIKA writes.

Kosutic said that "the choice of people should not be used as a reminder of times before or after March 9", as POLITIKA writes.

Police and demonstrators clashed in Belgrade on March 9. The demonstrators were protesting against, as they said, biased reporting of the media in favour of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia.

One demonstrator and one policeman were killed, and scores of people were injured. At the demonstrations, organized by opposition parties, the ruling party and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic were strongly criticized.

Many Belgrade television directors and editors resigned after the demonstrations. Some television speakers, who were then taken off the air, have been reinstated recently.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Officials Threaten To Call State of Emergency

LD2408223991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2137 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Bosanski Novi, 24 Aug (TANJUG)—Following this morning's mortar attack on Bosanska Kostajnica, launched by the forces of the (Croatian) Internal Affairs Ministry and the National Guard Corps from the direction of (Hrvatska) Kostajnica, a municipal National Defense Council was in an emergency session. The majority of citizens of Bosanska Kostajnica, mainly women and children who were evacuated following the attack, returned to their homes.

The National Defense Council met in Bosanski Novi also. The Council considered the situation following this morning's attack on Bosanska Kostajnica.

A statement sent to the president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, to the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government and the national defense and internal affairs ministries, and to the Republican and Regional Territorial Defense Headquarters and the command of the Banja Luka garrison, which is within the Fifth Military District, demands the relevant Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] groups to station an armored unit in the Bosanska Kostajnica region to prevent future attacks. The statement issues an ultimatum saying that, if competent republican bodies and the YPA do not station an armored unit in the Bosanska Kostajnica region within 12 hours, the competent bodies of the Bosanski Novi municipality will be forced to convene an emergency session of the Municipal Assembly and declare a state of emergency. They will also have to rely on municipal forces in preparing the defense of their territories. In that case, they will not again seek help from the competent republican bodies and the YPA.

Macedonia

Ministry's Conscription Actions Explained

LD2308165891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1443 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Skopje, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—Following a decision by the president of Macedonia's government, the Internal Affairs Ministry was ordered—for unknown reasons—to take over all documentation on conscripts from Macedonia. Later, in their secretly prepared action, Internal Affairs Ministry members forcibly smashed their way into all local offices of the National Defense Ministry on the nights of 21 and 22 August and seized all documentation on draftees. The documentation was then taken to an unknown destination and has been kept in a location known only to the Internal Affairs Ministry. This was done without the national defense minister's knowledge, today's Third Military District Command statement says.

The Third Military District Command says that, following the SFRY Presidency's decision, the Armed Forces were ordered to reassert their powers regarding matters of military conscription, something that should have been taken over by the newly established military local bodies of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army [YPA]. The YPA should have carried out this task from 26 to 31 August, and the public was informed about it.

The Third Military District's Information Service qualified the Internal Affairs Ministry's action as an infringement on the system of conscription and mobilization. It maintains that, in this way, "the SFRY Presidency's decisions and the Brioni Accord were dealt a direct blow with unforeseeable consequences." The seizure of the documentation is regarded as a direct attack on the YPA and its military potential for carrying out its tasks. According to the statement, the consequences will be borne by those who ordered and carried out this action.